

**MING SUM SCHOOL *for the* BLIND**  
**FONG TSUEN**  
**CANTON, CHINA**  
**1889-1939**



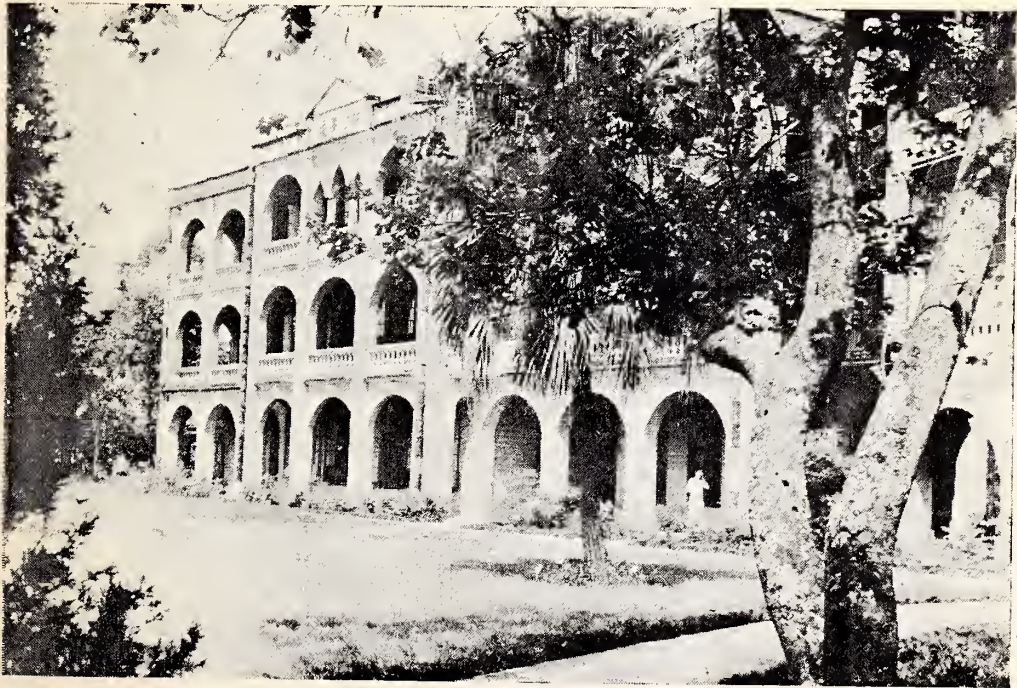
AMERICAN FOUNDATION  
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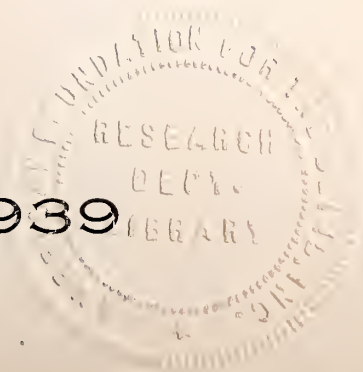
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1939

MING SUM  
THE SCHOOL of the UNDERSTANDING HEART  
THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY



1889-1939



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## *Foreword*

1889-1939! Every half century is full of stirring events as people struggle, suffer, and achieve. These fifty years just gone have been especially changeful ones for China, this great country closed so long to foreign contacts. Then with almost cataclysmic swiftness great world movements have swept over this ancient nation. At times there has been resistance to the new; at other times it has been taken over with all of its good and evil. The many millions still labor and live on, much as they have done these four thousand years. To the few millions there have come readjustment and phenomenal progress.

Canton, this fascinating city of Rams, here for more than two thousand years has been intensely and constructively in the midst of the far-reaching Renaissance. As one of the first ports to be opened, the energetic Cantonese have longest been free to take or reject what they chose from the new world. From here traders have gone out—students and scholars too—and to this port traders have come. Others, too, have wished to share different phases of the life of the West, Robert Morrison being the first to combine the two motives.

Into Canton Dr. Mary West Niles, an American woman, came and gave of her fine gifts as doctor and friend. Here she worked in varied phases of the religious, medical, and social life of the old and new city from 1882 to 1928.

In 1889 she started Ming Sum School for the Blind—the School of the Understanding Heart, moved by a deep love and sympathy for all those who sat in darkness. In this eventful half century Ming Sum came into being, and has grown and developed far beyond early hopes. Dr. Niles had the joy of seeing this growth for more than forty years.

Here in these pages, we of the Staff of Ming Sum School wish to honor those whose love, faith, patience and ability built the foundations so well and so surely, to portray the challenging present, and to voice our hopes and dreams for the future.

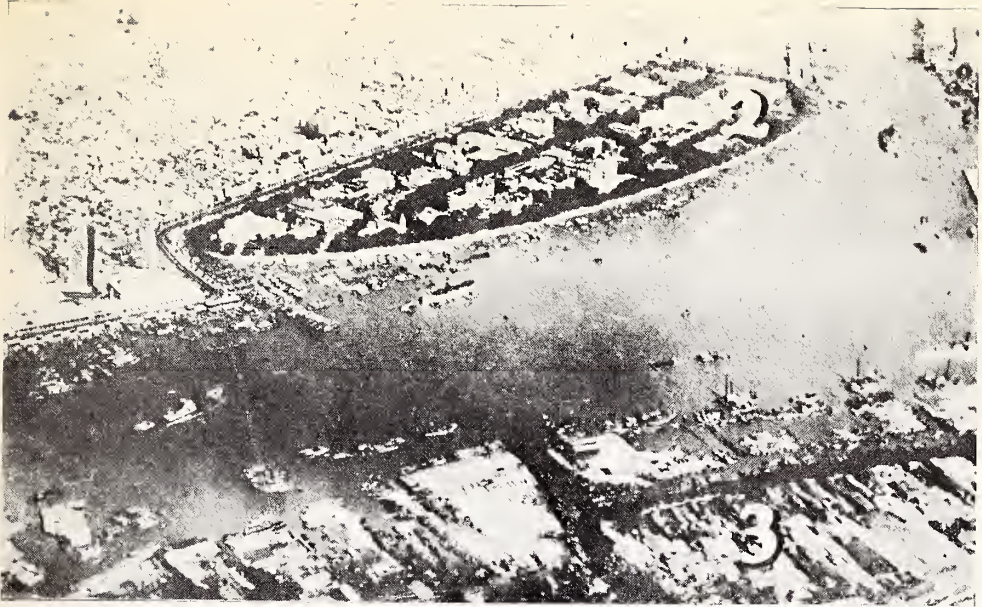


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# On The Way To Ming Sum



1. Wong Sha.

2. Shameen.

3. Fong Tsuen.



On Shameen.



The Ming Sum boats come to this  
Shameen landing.



Looking Toward the Shameen Bund.



The British Landing, Shameen.



# ON THE WAY TO MING SUM



*Ming Sum boat landing and THE GATE to Fong Tsuen.*

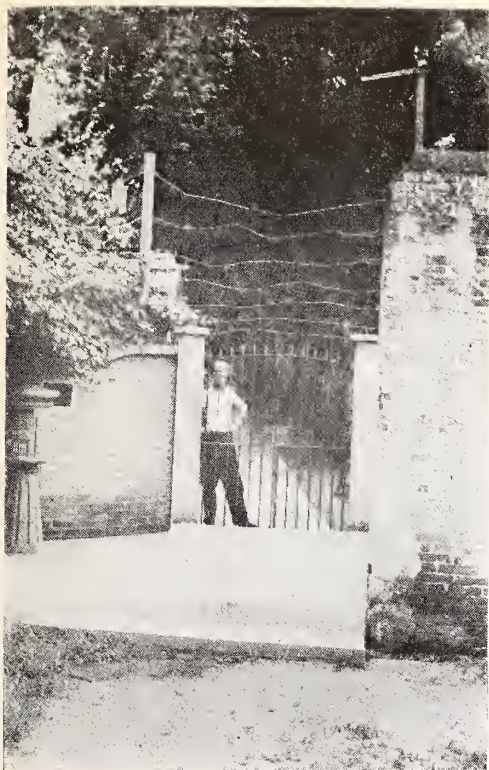


*Looking towards Fong Tsuen from the Shameen landing.*

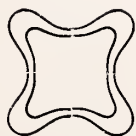
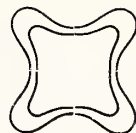


*From THE GATE to the entrance to the foreign compounds.*

ON THE WAY TO MING SUM



*The Fong Tsuen foreign community gate keeper.*



*Down the banyan shaded path to Ming Sum.*



ON THE WAY TO MING SUM



*The entrance to Ming Sum Compound.*



*Welcome to Ming Sum!*



## Dr. Mary West Niles—The Founder

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In 1932, the fiftieth anniversary of the arrival of Dr. Niles in Canton, we at Ming Sum School asked her to write what she herself considered the outstanding events in her life. This she did and now we reprint it as she wrote, letting her tell as she chose, the history of Ming Sum through four decades.

She would wish no eulogy here, nor do we wish to commemorate her in solemn phrases.

Hers was a vital, full, purposeful, energetic life. In Canton under the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. from 1882 to 1928, she saw unbelievable changes and through them all she held to the clear light of her purpose—to share with her Chinese friends the best she knew and to reveal to them the Master, Whom she served. Through the forty six years in this city, she saw the old streets widen, the city walls disappear, old superstitions vanish, western medicine established, medical schools opened, the Church of Christ in China started, the Boxer uprising, the early struggles for freedom, and finally the Revolution in 1911—then the troublous days of 1925-1927. Into the pattern of all of these movements her life was woven. Many times she had to flee with the school, but always she returned with her purpose unshaken.

In October of 1922, two weeks after my arrival in Canton, I saw her old friends come to pay homage to her upon her fortieth anniversary of her arrival in Canton. I was deeply impressed with the genuine love they bore her. Old scholars brought tribute, her one time medical students, later successful doctors, both men and women, gave their testimony of her help, material, intellectual

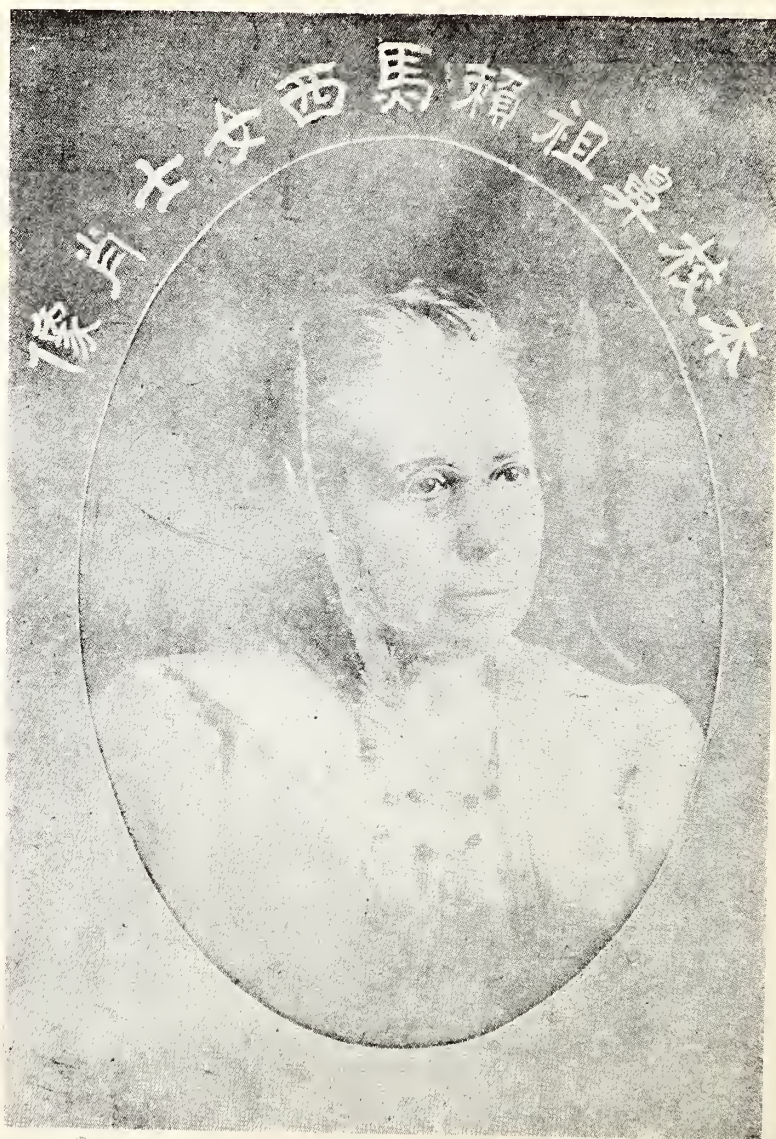
and spiritual; friends came from many parts of China and the ones whose “eyes of the heart” she had opened told simply and impressively of what their “mother” had done for them.

Through the decades she was here, she continued to study and after each furlough she brought back with her the latest that science had given to medicine and work for the blind. Each forward movement in these fields was incorporated into her program here, and with her Chinese associates, adapted to the needs in China.

She continued her medical translation, teaching, and her country evangelistic work.

Dr. Niles was the first women physician and surgeon in Canton and she always considered it an honour and a privilege that she began her service in Canton Hospital, opened in 1835 by Dr. Peter Parker. It is the oldest hospital in all Asia and today is still giving fine service in Canton. Here Dr. Sun Yat Sen was her student along with many others who have given outstanding service to China. Dr. Suet Ching Wong and Dr. H. W. Nye were her assistants in medical translation.

Today we see here countless fruits of her life—the high ethical standards of many of her medical students, the loving service they and her blind friends give to others because she showed them the way, the sure foundation she laid in the School of the Understanding Heart, the welcome shade of the old banyan trees she planted on the Compound, all these and more—the interest from an endowment that helps now in these difficult days, the lives of the teachers here in Ming Sum, most of whom owe their light to her.



*Dr. Mary West Niles*



The monumental task of evolving a system of Cantonese Braille was hers with a German assistant. This alone would merit unstinted praise but through all of her accomplishments, she took no honor unto herself. However, her Alma Mater, Elmira College, conferred upon her the degree of LL.D. in recognition of her noteworthy service in Canton.

Into dark places, full of pain and suffering she went, taking light and relief and beauty, and most of all, a loving heart. With great sorrow, she had to leave her Canton in 1928 but she had four happy years with her family in California where, in January of 1933, she found release from her tired body to enter into a fuller life,



*Flower decoration at the Fortieth Anniversary of the arrival of Dr. Niles  
in Canton, October 18 - 1922, Ming Sun School,*



*Dr. Niles with the newly formed Alumni  
Association of Ming Sum School August 1928*



*Friends of Dr. Niles  
on the wharf as she left Canton in August, 1928*



*Dr. Niles on the Canton boat bound for Hong  
Kong enroute to the United States after forty-  
six years in Canton*



## Outstanding Events in the Life of Mary M. Niles.

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My father was a pioneer home missionary in Wisconsin where I was born Jan. 20, 1854. When I was five the family returned east on account of the death of my mother's father and settled in Corning N.Y. where my father ministered to the Presbyterian church for thirteen years. My grandmother and great-grandmother lived with us and both made a great impression upon my childhood mind by their sweet Christian characters and prayerful lives.

At twelve years of age I united with the Corning church. In my junior year in college father became pastor of the Presbyterian church in Hornell and remained for seventeen years, greatly beloved as he had been in Corning. In 1875 I received the degree of A.B. from Elmira college and for the next three years engaged in teaching in the public schools and in mission work in New York City. Then I began my medical training in the Women's Medical College connected with the New York Infirmary for women and children and was graduated in 1882 with the degree of M.D. My Alma Mater at the same time conferred the degree of A.M. and in 1917 the degree of LL.D.

The Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions commissioned me as a medical missionary to Canton, China and in Aug. 1882 I left home. One thing that eased the pain of parting was the fact that my brother Silas traveled with me as far as Texas where our oldest brother resided. Then father had arranged for me to travel on the boat from San Francisco with those veteran missionaries Dr. and Mrs. John Nevius.

Steuben Presbyterial Society which included Corning and Hornell assumed my support and for forty-six years its members were my loving friends, giving me many love tokens and on my twenty fifth anniversary presented the school for the blind with a piano that was sorely needed. On my furloughs they welcomed me as if I were a hero of a war returning to the home-land. Their prayers and affectionate interest have been a great inspiration and help. Arriving in Canton October 19th Dr. John G. Kerr initiated me into the practical medical and surgical work of the General Hospital. Miss Noyes received me into her home at the

True Light Seminary and I commenced the study of the Cantonese language. In 1885 I was officially appointed by the Canton Medical Missionary Society to have charge of the women and children and the women students in the hospital. Later I taught both men and women students and lived in the home of Dr. and Mrs. Kerr.

In 1883 I lived with Dr. and Mrs. Andrew Happer and visited in the homes in the western suburbs and soon opened a dispensary.

My first furlough was in 1890 during which I took courses in the Post-Graduate Medical College in New York City, making my headquarters in the home of my parents who at that time resided at the Bloomfield Theological Seminary. Returning to Canton I was joined in 1892 by Dr. Ruth Bliss who had been appointed by the Board to be associated with me in medical work. The dispensary Dr. Mary Fulton had opened at Sz Pai Lau Dr. Bliss took over from 1894-1898. I had charge from 1899-1902. The dispensary I had previously carried on in the Western Suburbs was moved to Sz Pai Lau. Dr. Bliss was married in 1896 to Rev. J. J. Boggs of the Theological Seminary.

Before going home on my first furlough I had received five little blind girls into the Canton Hospital, the first in 1889. They had been brought as patients but when found incurable and their friends were proposing to commit them to worse than useless lives we rescued them from this fate. Mrs. Kerr received them as pupils into her hospital day school. When I went on furlough she took the whole charge of them till my return. Friends in America, moved to compassion by my mother's recital of their woes, furnished their support. Soon after my return to China Miss Nystrup, a Danish lady, was employed to supervise the school. A blind teacher educated at the Berlin Foundling House was employed to teach them Braille and knitting. A native house on Honam was rented at first and later a house in Macao. After four years, health reasons necessitated Miss Nystrup's return to America and the school for the blind came back to Canton where the True Light Seminary

generously allowed them room in the fourth story of one of their buildings till the new house adjoining, capable of housing 30 pupils (erected by Miss Butler) was ready for occupation. We held a ten years lease for the building. My father came to visit me after the death of my mother in 1896. During his stay we moved from Dr. Kerr's into the new house which gave quarters to the school for the blind, the young women studying medicine in the Canton Hospital and the missionaries in charge. In 1897 I returned to America on furlough with my father who died in September of that year. Dr. Mary Fulton took charge of the work in the hospital and Miss Butler the oversight of the school for the blind till my return. We had already called it the Ming Sum School, (Clear Heart) a name suggested by Miss Noyes which we found very appropriate and a source of joy to our girls and all concerned. I resigned my position in the hospital in 1899 and devoted my attention to the Ming Sum School, attended many cases in city and country and the dispensary. I taught medical students in the colleges and commenced the revision and translation of medical books.

In 1902 Miss Durham came to China and was associated with me in the school and in itineration in the country districts where our mission was carrying on work among the women. For the year 1903-4 I was in charge of the Hackett Medical plant while Dr. Mary Fulton was on furlough.

In 1906 was bought two and one half acres of land from Dr. Selden and in 1910 the first school building erected was dedicated. The money had been contributed from time to time by officials, rich patients, foreign residents in Canton and by friends who heard of it in America, Germany and England. The Lord sent it as it was needed. Miss Cameron inspired the editor of a Chinese daily paper in San Francisco to solicit funds from his subscribers. \$3105.35 was handed to me when I was returning to China in 1909 to be taken to Miss Durham who formerly taught English to his relatives.

In 1912 Chan King Wa, Chief of police, sent 65 blind singing girls to the Ming Sum. Month by month the amount per capita promised by him has been received. He also promised us \$15,000 local currency for a building. It was a day of mourning in our school when we heard that the one who had been a father to many of us was dead. The building for which we had contracted in consultation with him was nearly finished

and only \$11,000 had been paid over to us. After many unfruitful efforts to obtain the balance, February 13, 1915, the last day of the Chinese year we took our one last chance and armed with letters from the U.S. Consul General and the civil Governor, we went to the police dep't. Miss Durham and I felt it to be a wise use of our time to sit calmly for over six hours and preserve a dignified waiting until the money should be handed to us. At last Mr. Tang, the Chief of Police handed out the \$4000 in five dollar Kwang-tung notes. We were still in need of over \$1000 to pay up back debts. The \$10,000 paid in bills were sold at a large discount and the interest was due on borrowed funds. February 16 came the word that the Occidental Board had assigned to us \$1086.95 H.K. Thus we could meet all our obligations at the same time. We thanked the Lord and took courage. "Bless the Lord O my soul and forget not all His benefits."

Our printed Braille Primers arrived just as we felt the need of them most keenly in the fall of 1912. The British and Foreign Bible Society had promised us to print the Cantonese braille New Testament and one by one the nine volumes were completed and sold to us at only a nominal price as we required them. This was a most opportune and priceless treasure.

In 1917 we received Mrs. Lucy Happer Glover's gift of \$17,834.40 gold. This was a great cause of thanksgiving. Thus we could have that longed-for endowment very precious because given by the sister of my warm personal friends, Mrs. Damon and Mrs. Fearon. In 1921 the pupils supported by the government were transferred from the care of the Police Dep't. to the Educational Bureau. In 1919 we succeeded in consummating our plans for the transfer of the deed to the property of the Ming Sum to the Board of Foreign Missions.

The 1921 report said; "The appointment of Miss Carpenter is the occasion of special thanksgiving and praises to God". The 1922 report said: "The most important event of the year was the arrival of Miss Carpenter".

We cannot forget 1925, for months being refugees in Hong Kong, separated from our loved teachers and pupils and finding it so difficult to communicate with them, the joy of our return to them, to hear how God had marvelously cared for them and how faithful and true the teachers had been in the management of their perplexing affairs.

All that I have done for the school is only by the help received from God and a host of friends too numerous to mention.

All the teaching was done by an efficient and devoted staff of Chinese teachers. There is nothing I can say too much in praise of Chau Sin Shang who for 33 years was our Principal and this day (June 8) has passed to her reward in Heaven. We rejoice that the work has not been in vain; Miss Carpenter and Miss Burkwall report for 1931 a list of 62 pupils that have been in our school now profitably employed.

Had I not been upheld by my family at home and by our Board I could not have gone on. It has been such a comfort to have a Board of Directors appointed by our Mission who have ever been a rock of support and most sympathetic with us. When our dear Chinese friends Dr. Kwaan Seung Woh and Lau Sam Tsz consented to serve with them that was indeed an added joy. We must thank the Mission and our Board for their ever ready co-operation. Not only our own Mission but other missions have been an immense help in forwarding our plans for the giving of a higher education to our girls and preparing them for efficient service. Also I want to thank

the Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. for their aid. There have been memorable days when noted ministers and musicians from abroad have visited us, Dr. Speer first who prepared the little leaflet sent out by our Board; Dr. John Timothy Stone, Dr. Hugh Kerr, Mr. Quinn, Mr. Rodeheaver and many others who have inspired us. To my heart was most precious the visits of my brothers Silas and John in 1915 and my nephew and wife in 1927.

But what of those never-to-be-forgotten days when I knew I must wrench myself away from you and my loved China. What sweet farewell meetings, what rare and beautiful tokens of love and affection and the fragrant "Memory Book" that remain with me.

And now may I give you all a verse, Matt. 6:33.

Pray earnestly "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done in us, in the schools, in China and the world.

Beloved let us love one another. God is love.

MARY WEST NILES.







*Miss Margaret Chau at Ming Sum School*

1896 - 1929



## Miss Margaret Chau

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This was written by Miss Lucy Durham who for twenty-eight years, gave her service to Ming Sum and was intimately associated with Miss Chau.

A report of the Ming Sum School at Canton, China says "In 1897 Dr. Niles returned home on furlough and Miss Butler took charge of the School for the Blind. She put Miss Chau in charge during the vacation of the True Light Seminary where she was a regular teacher. At the close of vacation some of the blind pupils went as a committee to Miss Butler, begging with tears that their beloved teacher might remain permanently. At this sight Miss Chau was overcome and gave up her cherished plans in the Seminary, feeling she was called of God to this work."

Miss Chau has longed to follow the profession of her father who was one of the first among Chinese men to be trained in foreign medicine. Some American friends urged that she was more needed as a teacher than as a doctor, for many girls at that time aspired to study medicine. Reluctantly she yielded and then whole heartedly gave herself to teaching. She wished to change the old manner of study and led pupils to think and reason, not only to memorize, being greatly inspired by the example of Miss Amy Law, who was once her instructor.

Blessed with a musical ear and a clear pleasant voice she, alone at the first, taught the blind in vocal and instrumental music, having only small organs for the use of the pupils.

After music was written for the blind in Braille notation Miss Chau learned the system, taught it and untiringly read to blind teachers our music, transforming the system for the blind, and succeeded in producing several books of music for the school and copies to be loaned for the use of other blind persons.

She was a careful student of the Bible and enjoyed her daily private study and preparation for classes. One day a Chinese preacher was seen standing outside of her class room, listening long at the window. He was approached and asked if he wished to see some one. He replied "I am listening to this teacher. I would like her to teach me."

Miss Chau was ever grateful for the grounding in the Classics and the Bible given at True Light Seminary, but she with many other young women continued all their lives to study, and obtained a knowledge of great facts and thoughts that helped them as teachers and citizens and as leaders of Christian thought.

At the time when we were putting up on the new grounds large buildings for the school, she was the right hand to the ladies in charge. Her insistence on honest construction was felt by every workman. When a contractor offered her on a slip of paper the customary secret commission, she took the tiny paper to the missionary and was advised to accept the offer, but every dollar of each payment to her by the contractor was returned to the treasury of the school. Not a dime was ever used for her own benefit.

Years afterwards she said, "I think we established a new standard of business integrity at Fong Ts'uen. A squeeze is never honorable."

Later contracts for buildings were made with the contractor knowing that no one could apply to him for "tea money" in return for favors.

In 1910 Miss Chau travelled with a little company of missionaries in many countries. The experiences enlarged her knowledge of humanity, of the grandeur and beauty of the world, and gave a deeper understanding of God; and was a source of joy through the twenty and more of years that followed. The new grounds at Fong Ts'uen gave large space for flowers and vegetables, shrubbery and trees, and her love of nature and gardens was gratified. She led the blind children in the work of making the place beautiful and imparted her enthusiasm to them. They had the ponds and fishes, birds, insects and many living things to illustrate the study of nature that Miss Chau began with them then, with great joy.

Above all Miss Chau desired to be a consistent Christian. Truly her greatest concern for many years was that her pupils should be sincere whole hearted followers of God.

## Miss Lucy Durham



*Miss Lucy Durham at Ming Sum School 1901-1929*

Miss Durham came to Canton after many years of work among the Chinese in the United States. There she had also been an artist, working in Chicago, expressing beauty through the medium of colour on canvas. For twenty eight years, 1901-1929, she was associated with Dr. Mary W. Niles in Ming Sum School and in country evangelistic work in the Canton Delta.

Her artistic nature found expression in the planning of the now lovely Ming Sum garden, a source of joy to the blind as well as to the seeing.

Hers was the difficult task of supervising the erection of the buildings. She had to tap each brick to be sure no faulty material went into the making of the dormitories and houses that now give us homes. She stood for long hours knee deep in water to supervise the driving of the piles deep enough to make sure foundations in this land where water stands a few feet below the surface.

In the first days when Ming Sum students went out into schools for the seeing, Miss Durham spent much time reading books to them in English in preparation for their studies with the sighted.

She visited the Ming Sum students who went into the country to work, and many times she administered the affairs of the school when Dr. Niles went on furlough or on her rural medical itineration.

In 1930 she returned to California where she has ever kept a vital interest in China. She has helped many Chinese friends with gifts of money from her own resources, so that they might become independent. Her gifts supplied milk and some rice for Ming Sum staff and students and for Ming Sum Refugee Camp in 1938-1939.

Every letter from her brings renewed assurance of her interest and loving concern.



*Matsheds—the first Ming Sum residences  
at Fong Tsuen 1907*



*Ming Sum in the process of  
Building*



*Ming Sum administration building and  
American teachers residence 1910*



1939



# Ming Sun Board Of Directors



*Mrs. Sum Tsz Lau Law*



*Mrs. C. S. Wong*



*Mrs. K. H. Wu*



## Ming Sun Board Of Directors



*Mr. H. F. Thomson*



*Mrs. A. J. Fisher*



*Miss Grace M. Rupert*



*Mrs. J. S. Lowe*

# The early history of Ming Sum School

## as I remember it

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The Ming Sum School was organized fifty years ago. In the beginning it was called the "Blind Girls Home". Later when they began to follow the regular primary school curriculum the name was changed to "The Ming Sum School". The founder, Dr. Mary Niles, was sent to China by the American Presbyterian Mission more than fifty years ago for medical and evangelistic work. At first Dr. Niles lived at the teachers' residence of the True Light School. She cooperated with Dr. John Kerr in the Canton Hospital and served True Light as school physician. The principal of True Light, Miss Harriett Noyes, and Mrs. S. T. Law were her very close friends and fellow workers.

Dr. Niles was very humble and gentle, "loving others as she did herself." Sometimes she went to the country often giving for the first time the Gospel message to these rural people, as well as ministering to their physical needs. In the villages she saw the sad condition of the children whose mothers had no knowledge of hygiene or how to care for them when sick. Dr. Niles saw many children who had become blind because of lack of proper care. She also saw how partial the people in those days were to boys and how they neglected the girls.

Sometimes little blind girls would be discarded by the road side and no one would care for or help them. These conditions moved Dr. Niles and filled her with compassion for these little girls. Also in the city she saw people making traffic of blind girls as "sing-song girls". She would see them reduced to the hardest kind of life by being led thru the streets at night with their musical instruments. They had no other way of existence. They were helpless and hopeless.

Dr. Niles felt she must do something to save blind girls and give them some hope in life. She discussed this problem with her mission group and finally received their help and financial co-operation, and together this specialized work for the blind was undertaken. There were the problems of a place and teachers for this group and all sorts

of difficulties in the way at the beginning. Miss Noyes was so sympathetic with this new piece of work and eager to help them get started that she gave Dr. Niles part of one of the True Light dormitories as a place for the blind girls to live. In Hong Kong Dr. Niles found a blind teacher with knowledge of Romanized Braille who was willing to come to Canton. Gradually the school grew and the number of students increased.

As a result of continual mistreatment many of the blind girls who first came to the school had such bad habits and bad dispositions that the teachers had to be very patient and loving. Anyone who was easily discouraged would never have succeeded with these girls. I have never seen a teacher who was more patient or who understood her students better than Dr. Niles did.

These blind girls were in the True Light dormitory for about two years when they were able to rent a three storied house which was airy and comfortable. Dr. Niles took the girls there to live. Each evening when Dr. Niles came home from her work at the Canton Hospital the blind girls would gather around her. They would feel her dress, her hair, her hands, her rings. They loved her as children loved a mother.

The name "Ming Sum", the Bright or Seeing Heart was given to the school by Miss Harriett Noyes. She saw these girls whose eyes were dark yet whose hearts were radiant.

Later the school moved to Fong Tsuen where they had their own dormitory and garden. All know of the valuable and important work the Ming Sum school has done these recent years so I do not need to write about this.

(Mrs. S. T. Law) Lau Sam Tsz.

Mrs. Law was a warm, personal friend of Dr. Niles. She taught in True Light Primary School in Canton for over fifty years and has served many years as Chairman of the Board of Directors of Ming Sum School. She is Secretary Emeritus of Women's work in the Church of Christ in China, South China Synod.





*Mrs. Sum Tsz Lau Law.*



## Ming Sun Staff 1939



**Back row:** *left to right:*

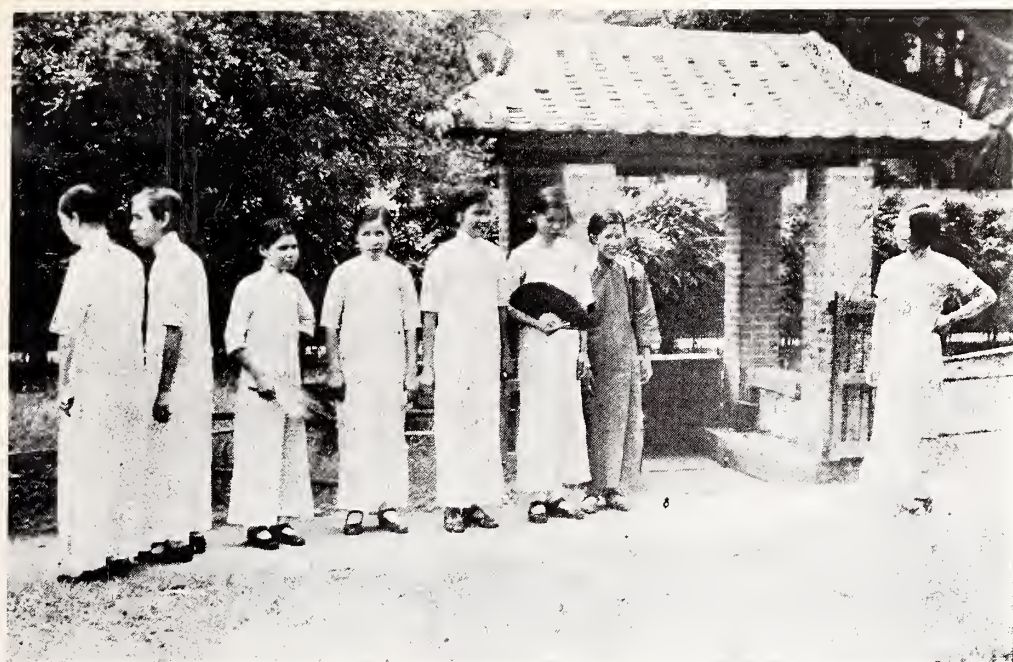
*Alice H. Schaefer, Mung Yan Yau, In Tsing Laai, Fung Kom Kwok, Tak Fan Chan, Siu Wan Leung, Alice M. Carpenter, Suk Ching Cheung*

**Front row:**

*Foon Hing Leung, Oi Tsing Maan, Suet Kei Lei, Dr. Suet Ching Wong, In Chan Uen*



*Alice M. Carpenter--Alice H. Schaefer*



*In the Ming Sum Garden*



*Ming Sum Executive Committee*

*Left to right:*

*Alice H. Schaefer, Dr. Suet Ching Wong,*

*Alice M. Carpenter, Oi Tsing Maan, Suet Kei Lei.*





*Dr. Suet Ching Wong*



## Dr. Suet Ching Wong

Into every story of every individual there run countless threads that make the pattern different from any other, but into few lives have there been woven more varicolored strands than those we see in the Oriental-Occidental tapestry of the life of this daughter of old Cathay and new China.

Dr. Suet Ching Wong, now co-principal of Ming Sum School for the Blind has often given fascinating, tantalizing bits of her experiences as I have stood with her in the more than one hundred years old garden of Canton Hospital, in True Light Primary School, in Yan Tsai Church, at Hackett Medical Center and at Ming Sum School. Into all of these historic places in Canton, her life has been mingled.

A few days ago, along with the duties of a busy day, she told me what I shall here try to relate, picture by picture. She talked more freely than ever before, increasingly so, as she relived the years with her beloved teacher and friend, Dr. Mary West Niles.

From old Canton, in 1849, went a young man, Hing Wong, eager to find a fortune in Old Gold Mountain (San Francisco) from whence came fabulous stories of gold and untold wealth. He went in a sailing ship. They sailed on for months and were finally wrecked near an island where they could find only potatoes. Here they repaired the broken masts and torn sails and went on until they reached the Land of Gold after six months of perilous sailing.

After more than ten years in the wild new life of the West young Wong returned to Hong Kong, not rich in wealth, but

clever and experienced to carry on business in his own country.

He married in Hong Kong and later moved to Canton where he established a Christian home, one of the first ones of this class in South China. They had two daughters, Fung Kiu and Fung Laan. Then there came a third daughter, but she did not bear the "Fung" in her name as is customary to give the same first name to all of the daughters in the family . . . . She was called by her father. Moon I, meaning "enough"! He had acquired all of the daughters he wanted. However, his family increased by five more girls but also that "circumstance of fate" was somewhat relieved by five boys as well.

The tenth child, Suet Ching, was born in Sai Kwan in Canton in 1881 and soon moved to Hong Kong with all of her family because of one of the violent political disturbances that came so frequently. There the family stayed for the rest of her mother's life. Mrs. Wong had endured enough from bandits in the country where Mr. Wong was in business for some time, and in the wild dangers of the city. She stayed in Hong Kong and her husband established his business there, another evidence of matriarcal influence in China!

The older daughters married, and for many years lived in Canton, near Canton Hospital on the land where the Yan Tsai Church now stands. With them Suet Ching lived, as she begged to come back to Canton. She played with the children, Hoi Hei (later Dr. Laai Kwan Hoi Hei)



Toh Ka, now Mrs. H. W. Nye, and her younger friends were Yan Choh, (now Mr. Y. C. Kwan) Seung Woh, (Dr. S. W. Kwan) Yan Lin (Mrs. Y. C. Kwan) and Yau Tsit (Miss Yau Tsit Law). There they had a happy childhood, with the privilege of going often into the Old True Light garden to play and sometimes into the Kerr garden under the old trees around Canton Hospital. As a special treat Mr. Kwan Loi, Mr. Y. C. Kwan's father, one of the sturdy pioneer preachers of Canton, took them down the shady path along the hospital as far as the river where they could see the strange boat life. Never were they allowed to go on the streets alone in those far off days.

Just across the path from her sister's home was True Light School, the first girls' school in this part of China, started by Miss Harriet Noyes in 1872 under the Board of Foreign Mission of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. When she was eight years old, she joyously entered this school where she had so longed to go. Suet Ching's sisters were among the first pupils in that school. Mrs. Sum Tsz Lau Loh, for more than fifty years a teacher in True Light School was her loved teacher. Mrs. Law is one of the outstanding women of China. She is now Chairman of the Board of Directors of Ming Sum School for the Blind.

After finishing True Light, her father said she might study western medicine, a great departure from the ordinary course for a Chinese girl to follow at that time. She wanted to follow Dr. Mary Niles who had been their friend and doctor for several years. "But," said Mr. Wong, "Follow Dr. Niles in her humility of spirit as well as in her profession. Do not become proud with

the learning of the West as many we know."

So the young woman went against tradition and did not marry at once. She went into the study of medicine at Canton Hospital with a scholarship from the American Presbyterian Mission. There she learned much under Dr. J. G. Kerr, Dr. Mary Fulton, Dr. Mary Niles and many others of the Chinese staff. For nearly a year she was there and then they had to flee to Macau because of the Boxer uprising. When they returned, it was not to study in Canton Hospital but in the newly opened Kwong Tung Medical School which later became Hackett Medical College. This was started by Dr. Mary Fulton with the help of Dr. Niles. It was the first Medical College for women in China. Her stories of her life there make a fascinating chapter. She graduated there in Hackett's first class with Dr. Yan Hoi So.

Her first year after graduation was spent as doctor in True Light and Ming Sum Schools with a daily trip, then a long one, across the city to Hackett to help Dr. Niles who was administrating the school and hospital while Dr. Mary Fulton was on furlough. During the first year at Ming Sum, she examined Suet Kei Lei, the little blind girl from a distant country place. Now Suet Kei Lei is the head blind teacher in Ming Sum and associated with Dr. Wong in the executive work of the school.

The next years brought changes to Dr. Wong and a vast amount of experience. Several years were spent in the country ministering to her own people and helping the blind girls whom Dr. Niles sent there to work. Then followed two strenuous years of obstetrical work in Canton after which she was ill for three years.





Those years were not idle ones, however, as they were spent with her teacher-friend, Dr. Niles. As she lay in a cast, she and Dr. Niles worked hard and long on medical translation and planned together the new site of Ming Sum. She moved with Dr. Niles in 1908 from the original site of Ming Sum in the Compound of True Light School, next to Canton Hospital, to Fong Tsuen, across the river from Shameen. Here they lived in mat sheds above the swamp, until land could be filled in and buildings erected.

After she was well again she went to Heung Shan, another country district near Canton. With her went Miss Lei, where she had her first experience working outside the school.

Always Ming Sum was home to Dr. Wong. After hard work for the Government in Heung Shan near Canton she returned to Canton to go with Dr. Niles to

Shanghai to help supervise the printing of medical books.

This was the stirring first year of the Republic.

Upon her return from Shanghai, Mr. Chan King Wa, the famous reformer Chief of Police in Canton sought the advice of the two doctors about rescuing the blind slave girls, seventy of whom Dr. Wong helped Dr. Niles receive into Ming Sum in August of 1912. To Dr. Wong he assigned the Herculean task of administering the YUK YING TONG, a home for foundling babies. It had been in Canton for over four hundred years and Mr. Chan found it in particularly bad condition. He sent squads of police to help Dr. Wong and she gloried in the results that she and her new staff achieved as they followed the methods of Dr. Niles and her own administrative gifts. Another chapter on these experiences could well be written.





A counter-revolution put an end to the brilliant career of Mr. Chan and thus stopped Dr. Wong's work in connection with the babies.

After this experience she went to Wuchow in Kwong Sai, and then to visit relatives in Singapore.

The next five years were happy ones for her as she taught and took her share of the hospital work at Hackett Medical College with Dr. Fulton, Dr. Niles, Dr. Hackett, Dr. Allyn and Dr. S. W. Kwan.

After that she spent three years in Changsha in a Norwegian Hospital and then a year in private practice and travelling in North China. She had saved enough to retire from active service but she wished for further work. From Shanghai in 1925 Dr. Wong again wrote her good friend Dr. Niles, offering her services to Ming Sum. Dr. Niles had ever pleaded with her to return. Dr. Wong was a special help and comfort to Dr. Niles during the hard days of 1925-1928 when political unrest and her own failing strength made her most happy to put some of the burden on younger shoulders.



*Morning Clinic*

On Christmas Day of 1925 Dr. Wong received word that all of her savings were lost in Singapore. No longer young, Dr. Wong started again on a new turn in her career. More and more responsibility in Ming Sum was given her and in 1929 she was made co-principal by the Board of Directors.

For fourteen years she has given her experienced best to Ming Sum as doctor and administrator. Too much cannot be said in recognition of her service here. Her wide contacts have given much to the school. For ten of the fourteen years she was also school doctor at True Light Primary School; the money for which service she gave to fill various needs at Ming Sum.

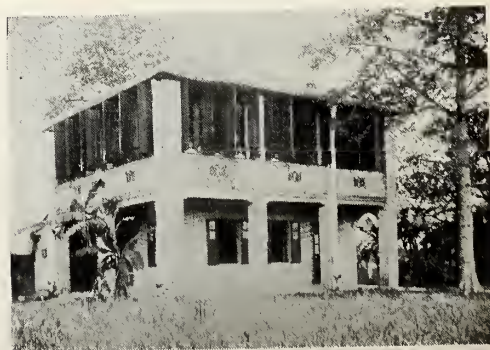
During the crisis in October of 1938 Dr. Wong's administrative and organizing ability took the school through with dignity and calmness. She has stayed through it all, many times bowed with grief and pain because of her country's suffering, but she has rejoiced with all of us that God's purposes go on even in the midst of this great tragedy.

She ended the story with this:

"I feel Dr. Niles with me as I go to the school dispensary. I lose my patience with some of the children who are difficult to manage but then I remember Dr. Niles's love and teaching and I go on with the many who come to me for daily treatment as they used to go to her".

A practical Christian is Dr. Wong. She has remained a wide-awake woman and a good doctor—typical of the many fine Chinese women who have developed during the last sixty years—taking the best they have learned from the West to serve their own people, yet at the same time, remaining intensely Chinese.

Canton, China,  
July, 1939.



*Dispensary and Infirmary given by Mr. Patell*

# The Story Of Our Fiftieth Anniversary Year

## As Told By

### The Junior High School Girls.

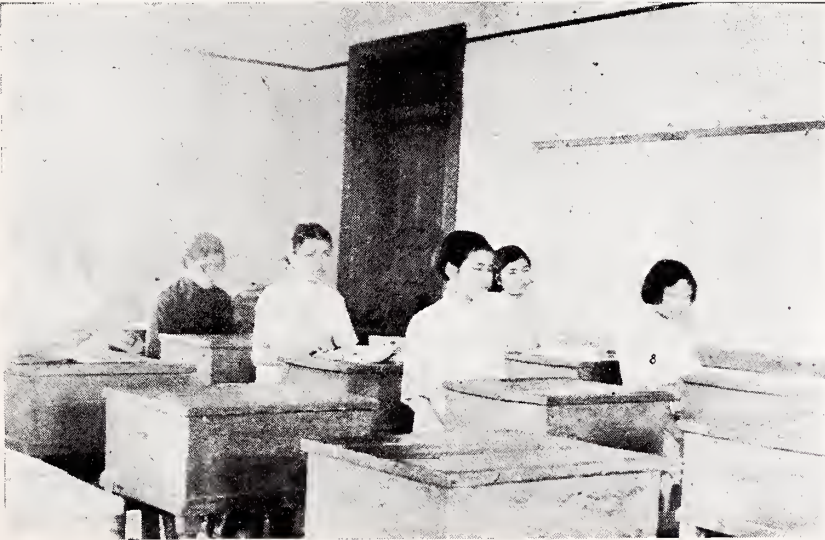
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Numerous stories have been told of the effect of the exigencies of the past months upon the people of China. There may well be a question in the minds of many as to the effect of these same exigencies upon those deprived of sight. What has been their reaction? Does the deprivation of sight add to or lessen their terror and suffering?

In the following recital of the events of this fiftieth anniversary year, the Junior

High School girls of Ming Sum unconsciously answer some of these questions. It reveals a bit of their thinking, their aspirations, their sorrows and, above all, their joys.

This was a class project in English written purposely for inclusion in the anniversary book. It recounts the events of the school year considered important by these eight girls.



*Junior High School Girls at Work*



*The Junior High School girls with Miss Alice H. Schaefer. Miss Schaefer directed the project of writing the story of the Fiftieth Anniversary Year.*



# Ming Sum School Refugees On The Boats



*Across the decks of the three Ming Sum boats*



*The Wong Sha blaze lights the midnight sky  
October 1938*



*Boats in the foreground, occupied by  
Ming Sum School, Wong Sha district burning  
in the background*



*School in session on the boats  
October 21-1938 to February 8-1939*

# REFUGEES AT MING SUM COMPOUND



*An Olive Vendor at the Refugee Camp.*



*Mr. H. P. Bunton introduces Commodore John Stapler to a group of refugee children in the Ming Sum Refugee Camp, November, 1938.*



*Digging away the salt.*



## REFUGEES AT MING SUM COMPOUND



*Dr. TO SHANG LOH*

*an old student of Dr. Niles who came back to help direct the Ming Sum Refugee Camp.*



*Mr. and Mrs. Tsz Chan leaders in Ming Sum Refugee Camp.*



*Dr. To Shang Loh with some of the old women who were part of the 1250 refugees who found shelter in the Ming Sum Camp from October 21-1938 to February 6-1939.*



*The nurses, Wai Hing Hoh, Wun Yuen Fung, Fung I Leung and Mo Hing Chui who served in Ming Sum Refugee Camp—October—1938—February, 1939.*

# The Story of Our Fiftieth Anniversary Year

## By The Junior High School Girls

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OCTOBER—1938.

Last October before Canton fell our principal, Miss Carpenter, and Miss Schaefer went to see the American Consul and asked him to take care of us. After that they went to see Commodore Stapler on the American gunboat and asked him to help us. They promised to protect us. Therefore our principal rented three Chinese boats near the gunboats.

On the 18th we took our food and other things to the boats. On that day at 12 o'clock we held a little meeting in memory of the opening of our school by Dr. Niles 49 years ago. The program was prepared by the pupils. We will always remember the meeting because Commodore Stapler and several officers of the American gunboat came to tell us that they would help us in case of danger.

On the 20th we took our baggage to the boats. On the 21st Canton was taken. The men of the American Navy came to take us to the rented boats.

After we left our school more than 1200 refugees lived in our school. Mr. Bunton, Dr. Loh and Miss Carpenter and several others cared for the refugees at Ming Sum. While we lived on the boats Canton burned for many days. Many houses and many shops were burned. It made us very sad and we were very much frightened. But God blessed us with peace. He sent many kind people to help us, so that on the boats we were peaceful and safe. Miss Schaefer and Miss Rupert lived with us on the boats.

Written by LEUNG SAN YUNG.

NOVEMBER—1938.

On the 1st of November we began our classes again. Because the place was so small, we could have only two or three classes each day. In the morning we had one class and in the afternoon we had two classes.

On the 24th of November we celebrated Thanksgiving. At 8 o'clock in the morning each boat had a Thanksgiving meeting. Many people told what was in their hearts to praise God. At 2 o'clock in the afternoon, the Gospel Boat asked several children to sing at their Thanksgiving service.

Near the end of the month we began to practice Christmas songs.

Written by LEUNG YUK KWONG.

DECEMBER—1938.

We were on the boats more than a month. Suddenly December had come. In this month we passed through all the matters. There were many special great joys in our hearts. We thought this month was the happiest of this year. We girls and boys lived together in the same boat. We sat there from morning till night because we had a crowded place and we had no good chance to move about. Nevertheless we could not leave the boats to walk on land. In such a time we were glad because many friends of ours with God's love in their hearts often remembered us. One of our friends, Mr. Dawson, talked to Mr. Baker-Carr about us. Mr. Baker-Carr sent a motor boat to take us to Paak Hok Tung to feel a horse and to walk around. We could not all go at one time because we had so many boys and girls, so we divided into two parts. Some went on the 4th and some went on the 11th.



After this, Christmas time came nearer and nearer. We were thankful to God because we thought that in these critical days we could not enjoy the happiness of celebrating Christmas. But in this year we had the greatest happiness of all. We knew there were several foreign friends gave some money to us for Christmas presents. Miss Carpenter and Miss Schaefer went to Hong Kong on the 14th of December to buy some presents for Christmas. On the 18th they came back to school.

On the 20th our school gave a Christmas concert on the Gospel Boat. There were many foreigners and some officers and men from the American and British Navies who came to listen to the concert. On the 24th more than 20 girls went to Paak Hok Tung to sing for the refugees there. We went to their hospital and sang too. Next day our class went to Hackett Hospital and participated in the Christmas meeting. We were glad because we could sing for the sick people. On the same day we went to Canton Hospital and sang some songs. We hope we can share our joy with them. Some children went to Ming Sum Refugee Camp to sing. They were very glad because they had a good chance to help other people.

At midnight of the 24th we all sang Christmas carols on the boats. On the 26th several girls went to the Gospel Boat and sang in their meeting. On the 27th our school went on the Gospel Boat and had our Christmas meeting and party. On that day we got many presents.

We were very thankful for all of the good times we had this month. Our hearts were very happy.

Written by AU FUK LIN.

## JANUARY 1939.

Time passed as quickly as swiftly flowing water. It did not seem possible that a year had gone. Although we lived on the boats, we had a happy New Year. And we had a New Year's meeting.

During the month we were unusually fortunate in our work. The Refugee Committee bought wool for us to knit. We gave our work and time as our share in helping the refugees. Nothing else of importance happened in January. We carried on our usual work.

Our life on the boats seemed very strange. Every morning we got up at 6 o'clock. At 8 o'clock we had our morning meeting. After the meeting we began studying our lessons. At nine o'clock we ate our morning rice. Each boat was served in turn. At 11 o'clock we went to our classes again. We studied until 5 o'clock and then we had our supper. After supper we went out to the end of the boat for a breath of fresh air. At 6.30 we had evening prayers. Then we went to bed.

We placed mats on the floor of the boats. We were very crowded so we slept close together. Two people slept under one cover. When we got up in the morning we folded the blankets and put them all in a corner.

When we washed our faces and clothes we went to the edge of the boats and drew up water in pails. We had to take turns to take our baths because we had only a little corner of the boat to use as a bathroom where only one person could bathe at a time.

There was not much furniture in the boats, just a few small tables and chairs. Therefore, most of the little children had to sit on the steps of the boat. The rice and vegetables had to be passed out together in bowls.

Although our life on the boats was very difficult, it was not as hard as in the refugee camps. Even though life was comparatively peaceful, big and little were very anxious to return to school soon.

Written by the entire class as a class project.

## FEBRUARY—1939.

January was past. Now it is February. In the beginning of this month we wanted to move back to our school. But the refugees had lived there for several months. All of the places were dirty and some doors and windows and other things were destroyed. So we had to clean all the places before we went back. On the 8th of February all of the girls and boys came back to school. We were thankful to God because we had peace all that day. Some men of the American Navy helped us. They took some of the boys and girls and teachers back to Fong Tsuen in their motor boat.

When we came back all the things were upside down, so we could not easily find our own things. Some things were easily found and some were not. Although in this condition, we were happy because we could have our freedom as before. On the 13th we began to study our lessons.

We were very happy because we heard that the Association for the Blind was begun this month. This will help many blind people find work to do.

On the 28th there was bad news. There was a great fire beside our school. It burned down many houses. We were afraid our school would be burned because the fire was so close. We were very unhappy. Many people came to put out the fire, so we were safe.

We had some more happy things in this month. In our daily food we got rice and some wheat sent by the American Red Cross from the people of America.

Written by NG FUK HING.

## MARCH—1939.

On the 8th our school had some pupils go to Shameen to a meeting of the Rotary Club. Our class sang some songs. Some of the little children sang songs too. Two pupils were knitting. On the 16th of March the Refugee Committee sent some beans to us. Food is very dear and hard to get. But thank God, for He did not forget us. We did not have to go hungry.

On the 19th, Dr. Otto and his friends came to visit our school. On the 25th our teachers and graduates went to Mrs. Fisher's house for a happy time. But this was God's grace. Mrs. Fisher remembered that we could not go other places for a change. Therefore she purposely invited us to her house for a happy time. We thank her very much.

Written by SO UE OI.

## APRIL—1939.

On the 2nd of April our class went to Hackett Medical Center to sing at their Palm Sunday service, and a teacher went to preach on one of our boats. That began the meetings on the boat for the boat people. In those critical days we had rented seven little boats for going out on any occasion. But many of the boat people did not know much about God and some did. Our principal said they are our good friends. They in those critical days must sorrow and fear. Why did we not give the Gospel to them? She thought our teachers have free time on Sundays so they could go out to the river to teach them. So on the first Sunday of this month they began to do so.

On the 3rd day Miss Bischoff came to our school to play the victrola. She played the story of the Crucifixion. She made us very happy. On the 7th at 6 o'clock in the evening we celebrated Jesus' death on the cross and took communion. On Easter Sunday morning we got up at 5 o'clock to sing praises to the Risen Lord.

On the 10th the American Consul and several officers of the American Navy came to our school to visit us.

On the 28th Miss Schaefer went with Miss Carpenter to get keys for the gate. When she crossed the river, she fell in the boat. She hurt her foot and had to go to Hackett Hospital.

On the 30th one of our pupils went to a church in Canton to work.

Written by CHAN UET HAAN.



## MAY—1939.

On the 2nd of May one new boy and one new girl came to Ming Sum School to study. On the 14th Miss Carpenter and Miss Schaefer went to Hong Kong to print the first TORCH. In those days we received \$100. from the Women's International Club of Canton.

On the 15th Dr. Lancaster and one Salvation Army helper came to give us cholera inoculations. On the 20th the International Red Cross sent some Cod Liver Oil to us. It helps the weak boys and girls very much.

On the 28th some of our schoolmates went to Ha Fong Tsuen to the German Mission to sing. It was the church service to celebrate Pentecost.

Written by TSO UE FOON.

## JUNE—1939.

On the 3rd of this month Miss Westra guided more than 10 nurses from Hackett Medical Center. They came to visit us. We were together in the Dr. Niles Hall and sang many songs for them. An American Consul came that day, too.

On the 5th our school received a new girl. The fees were paid by the Canton Association for the Blind to help her. On the 15th in the evening at 6 o'clock we had a meeting for Mr. Bunton because he helped us very much. Now he is returning to Australia. Mr. Bunton liked to hear the songs very much, so we sang several songs

and prayed for him. After this we had a Communion service, for Jesus died for us.

On the 16th Mr. Nixon came to take our pictures to put in our Fiftieth Anniversary Book.

The time passed very quickly. One school year was past. Therefore on the 21st we stopped our studies and reviewed our lessons. On the 22nd to 24th, 3 days, we had a great examination. On the 23rd afternoon Miss Bischoff gave three pupils an examination in massage. They passed their examination.

On the 25th at 2.30 in the afternoon we had our Baccalaureate service. Mr. Kelly preached. On the same day Miss Carpenter launched her new sampan, the Perky Pan.

On the 27th at 2.30 in the afternoon we went to the Dr. Niles Hall. We had our graduation exercises. That day was a very fine day. The sky was clear. That day more than 100 guests came to the meeting with us. There were two pupils graduated from elementary school. Three pupils received diplomas for massage. We sang many songs. Some were in English and some were in Chinese. Mr. Raetz was our speaker. One of the graduates played the mouth organ and one played piano. The 1st grade sang some motion songs.

On the 28th vacation began. So one school year ended.

Written by CHAN WAN SUNG.



# A Gift Of Wheat From America

---

Dear American Friends,

We thank you very, very much that you sent us the wheat. When we eat it we remember the story of the barley loaves and two fish. When there were many people with Jesus, they were very hungry. Then Jesus gave them food to eat and satisfied their hunger. In Canton all things are very expensive. How fortunate that you sent the wheat to us and thus saved many people's lives. We thank God very much for He has constantly blessed us. Even though we have no meat to eat in this

troubled time, but Dr. Wong said how rich each grain of wheat is in nourishment.

Surely you act like Jesus did. You gave us what we most need. You are very kind to us. We cannot give you anything, but we can pray for you every day. Your love is very deep. We will remember that forever. May God be with you and bless your work.

Your loving friends,  
150 at Ming Sum School.

Composed by Miss Lei, June 12, 1939.



*"Cracked Wheat  
Gift of  
The People of the United States of America  
to  
The People of China  
Through the  
American Red Cross."*





*Cracked wheat is carried into Ming Sum*

\*

\*



*"This American wheat is good!"*

## The Sum Fleet

---

These seven small boats and one big boat make up the SUM FLEET! The boats were bought by the school with money from friends in America. This insures safe transportation across the Pearl River from Fong Tsuen to Shameen. This assurance is very important for Ming Sum because without it, the affairs of the school could not be carried on. We can go at any time within the prescribed hours and the passage is sure in the boats that are now American property. The boat people have long served Ming Sum as good friends. During the last year they have stayed and the mutual help and co-operation has been a joy to all of us. They are likeable, dependable people. For three generations Mr. Ling To's family have given trustworthy service to the foreign community and now his little grand-daughter is learning to row, thus starting the fourth generation to make the crossing of this

river possible for those on the Fong Tsuen side. The river is about a mile wide, full of difficult currents and vagaries of the tide. It takes good seamanship to operate the small boats called "Taai Tengs". Never once in the history of the school has there been an accident due to the fault of the boat people.

To these good friends of ours we here give tribute and rejoice in another illustration of co-operation in a common cause.

(The names were chosen by the boat people who live in each boat added to the word SUM for MING SUM).

The boat population in Canton is about 250,000, one of the largest of its kind in the world. To those of us who live near the river, the boats play a large part in our lives as river "taxis".



*Through THE GATE to the Ming Sum boat landing.*

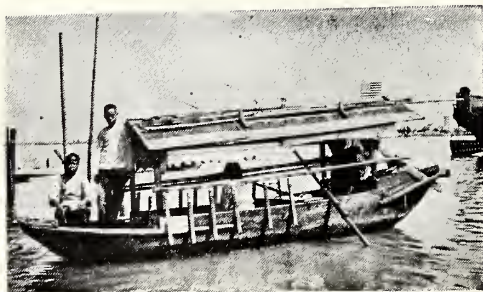
*Come ride in our boats!*



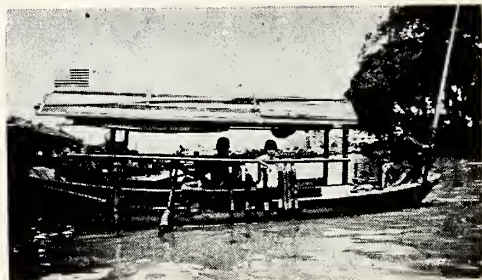


*The "OI SUM"*

*this boat and two others like it housed the Ming Sum School for sixteen weeks*



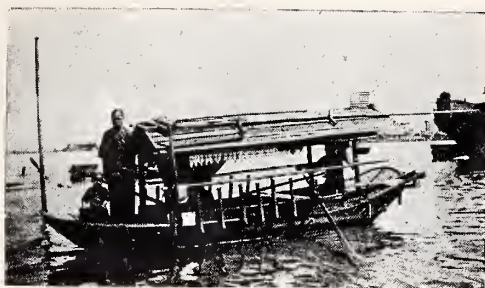
*The "Ping Sum"*



*The "Tsing Sum"*



*The "Yan Sum"*



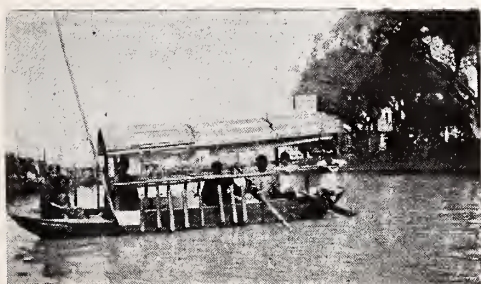
*The "On Sum"*

2



*The "Wah Sum"*

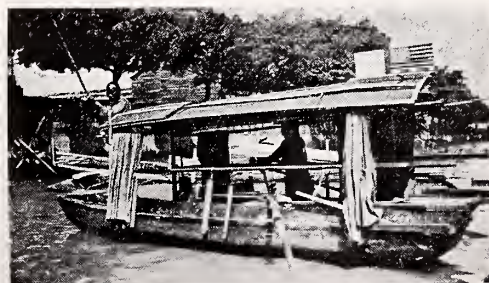
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*The "Kin Sum"*

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5



*The "Lok Sum"*





*U. S. S. Mindanao, Flagship  
Asiatic Fleet  
South China Patrol*

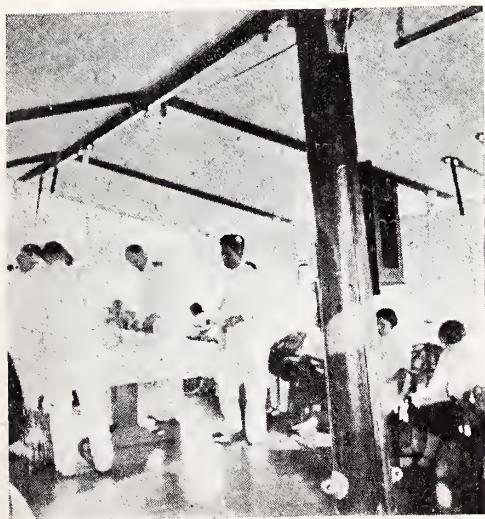
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*On the way to the Gunboat*



*Across the river to U. S. S. Mindanao.*



*"They had a tea party for us on the top deck of the ship."*



*Good things to eat.*



## Our Trip To The American Gunboat

---

Many years ago we studied in the Elementary Department of Ming Sum School. We studied all of the school lessons. We used the same studies as in other schools all except drawing. We also heard of many kinds of equipment for war. But we had never touched them. When we learned all the things we could not imagine the form of everything. For many months we always heard the sound of the machine guns and the cannons. Therefore we always wanted to know what the things were like.

We were very glad because on the 6th of July all of the teachers and Junior High School students had a good chance to take a trip to the American gunboat. On that day at 4 P.M. we went to the boat by little boats. When we left our school, on the way Miss Carpenter and Miss Schaefer took pictures of us. When we reached there we had a great happiness in our hearts and minds because we were for the first time on the big gunboat. We can use our hands to feel all the things very clearly, such as the machine guns, the cannon, the great and small bullets, the pistol, the bayonet, the telegraph and the steering wheel and compass on the bridge.

Some officers spent their time to lead us here and there. They gave many things to us to feel. It opened our understanding. It was very interesting to us. When we

went there we not only could feel all the things but we could appreciate the foreigners' equipment were so good, and their instruction to us was very great help. Because we had a good time sharing the goodness of other people, we thought we must do good things for other people with all our might, too. Now we can understand the war equipment more than before. If Commander Coney did not permit us to go there, I suppose it would be very hard to get greater happiness than that day's happiness.

We were very grateful to Commander Coney and the other officers. We had a good vision in our hearts and minds. When we finished feeling everything, they had a tea party ready for us on the top deck of the ship. They took our pictures, too. After the tea party then we started to leave the gunboat. They helped us to come on and helped us to leave the boat very carefully. So we shall not forget the matters of that day forever. We are thankful to God that though we are the sightless of the people God's grace is with us always. In these critical days we can receive the kindness from the Christian people. So we have the greatest of hope. God bless all of our helpers forever and ever.

Written by one of the  
Ming Sum teachers.



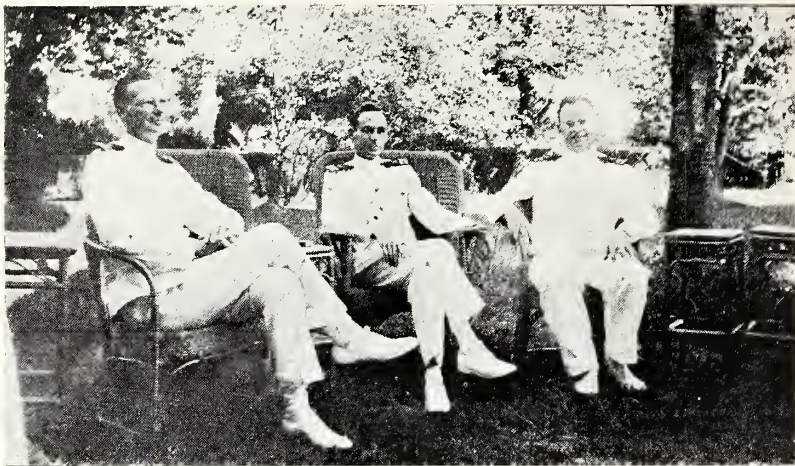
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A FRIENDLY VISIT FROM THE U. S. NAVY



*Commander C. E. Coney, U. S. N.  
U. S. S. MINDANAO.*





*Lieutenant Bower, U. S. N.*

*Lieutenant Chitwood, U. S. N.*

*Lieutenant Alderman, U. S. N.*



*Some of the men from the U. S. S. Mindanao*

Ming Sum is always glad to welcome their friends of the United States Navy whose help and advice is much appreciated.

## Ming Sum Reads

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The Braille code shown on the following page is the one that Dr. Mary West Niles and some German associate worked out in order that the blind of this province might have a medium through which to work.

Besides Cantonese Braille, Ming Sum teaches Mandarin and English Braille. More emphasis is being put upon English Braille so that more of those without sight here may read widely and put into Cantonese for those who do not learn English the wealth of material that is now sent to us.

This explanation of who Braille was is put in so that more people may understand this marvelous system that opens the world to so many who otherwise would sit in darkness. It may be adapted to any language as different arrangements of the six dots are chosen to represent the sounds in each language.

“This method was invented in 1829 by Louis Braille, who became one of the best organists in Paris and a noted educator of the blind. As a child he delighted to play in his father’s saddlery shop, punching holes in the scraps of leather with an awl. One day the sharp tool slipped, injuring his eye so severely that he became totally blind. He thought a great deal about the little marks the awl left in the leather, and the idea came that if the awl were punched only half way through, a dot would be raised on the other side. With this as a basis he worked out a system whereby different variations of groups of little raised dots represented letters of the alphabet, special word and syllable signs, and punctuation marks”.

Compton’s Pictured Encyclopedia,  
F. E. Compton and Company, Chicago.

Vol. I. P. 346





# CANTONESE BRAILLE CODE.

[The black dots represent the raised points of the sign; the dashes serve to show their position in the group of six.]

## INITIALS

f	h	k	k'	l	m	n	p	p'	s	t
t'	w	y	ch	ch'	sh	ts	ts'	kw	kw'	ng

## FINALS.

a	e	i	o	ö		oh	ai	aai	au	aau	ei
iu	oo	oi	ue	ui	ooi	sz	ak	aak	ik	ek	ok
ük	euk	at	aat	it	ot	ut	oot	uet	ap	aap	ip
op	am	aam	im	om	an	aan	in	on	un	oon	uen
ang	aang	eng	ing	ong	ung	eung					

## tone MARKS.

sheung	sheung	chung	hâ	hâ	hâ	hâ
sheung	hui	yâp	p'ing	sheung	hui	yâp

## PUNCTUATION.

Figure sign.	Full Stop.	Comma

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0

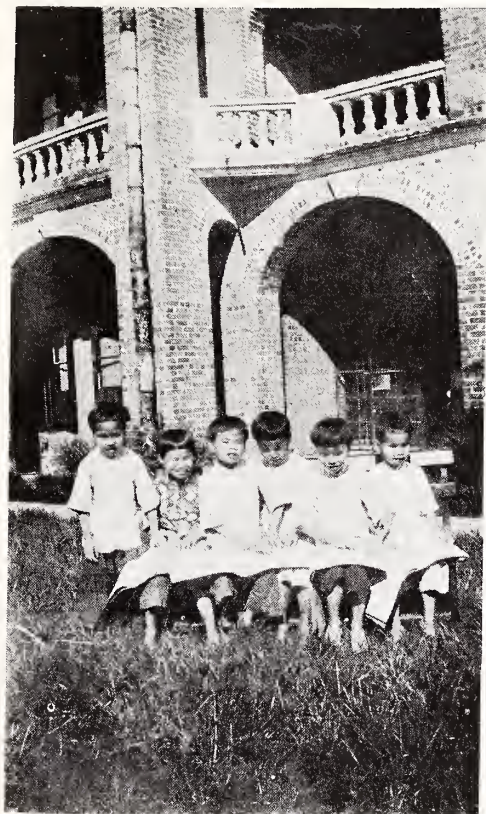
For representing the Canton colloquial in Braille the "initial and final" system is used, and the Braille signs are allotted as shown above. As the number of Braille signs is limited, several have both an initial and final meaning. In practice, however, no confusion will result from this arrangement.

In such characters as *yau*, *ying*, *yua*, etc., the *y* is omitted when used as finals.

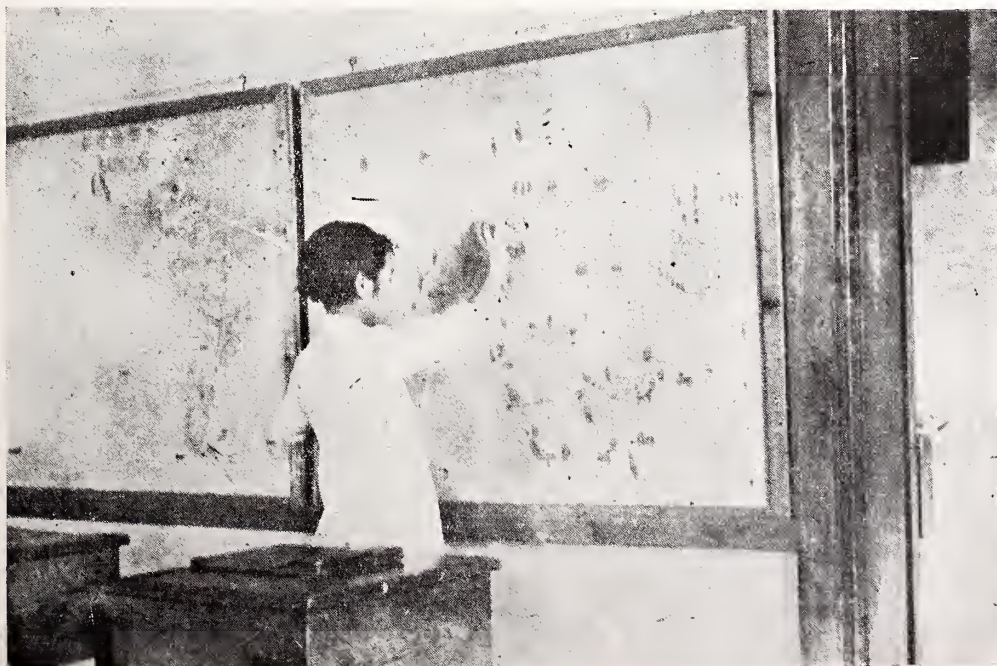
**Tone Marks.**—"Sheung p'ing" and "sheung yâp" use no tone marks; "hâ p'ing" and "hâ yâp" use the same tone mark. Words consisting of only one Braille sign, as *ou* (peace), and *uk* (house), and not needing tone marks must be followed by a space.

**Figures**—These are represented by the ten Braille signs composed of the four upper dots, preceded by the figure sign. The figure sign is placed before the first figure only of a number.

They also read the Bible in Cantonese, and English Braille, "Junior Evangel" "Discovery" and many stories in English Braille, the "Sunday Chat" in Mandarin Braille, and all of their text books transcribed into Cantonese Braille onto old magazine paper.



*Cantonese Braille Primer*



*Studying geography from wall maps made at Ming Sun*

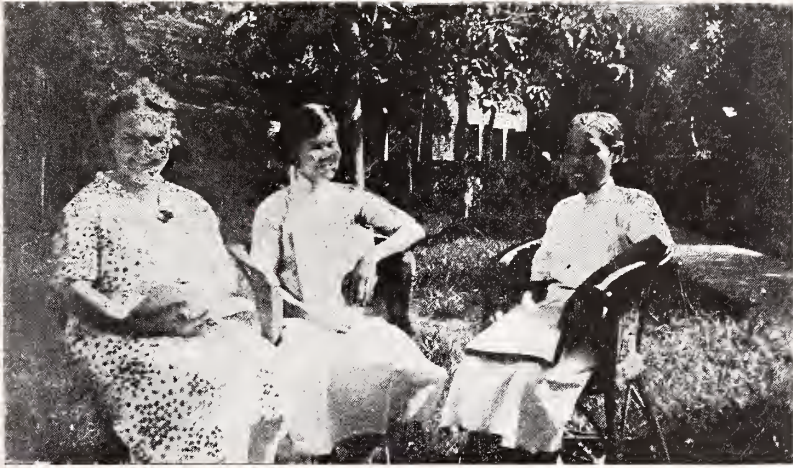




*Miss Hon Fai Faan  
reading "The Searchlight"  
(English Braille)*



*A lesson in geography from a map made at Perkins Institution*



*Enjoying the Readers Digest in English Braille with  
Miss Grace Rupert*



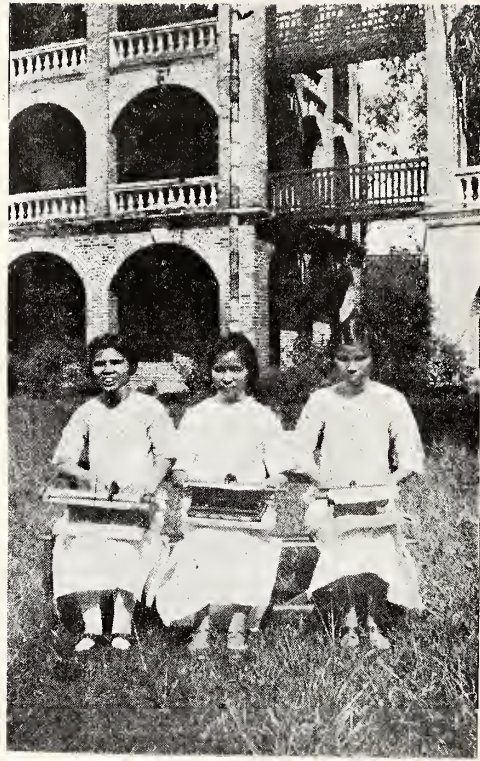
*Bible in Mandarin Braille*



*Reading Leonard Dawdy's story in the  
May issue of the "Perkins Goat"  
(English Braille)*



# MING SUM WRITES



*Writing on English, German and American  
Braille Writers.*



*Using Braille slates made in Perkins Institution.*



*Writing with Braille slates made in Canton.*



## MING SUM WORKS

Upon thy bended knees, thank God for work !  
In workless days all ills and evils lurk,  
For work to do, and strength to do the work,  
We thank Thee, Lord !

—from The Sacrament of Work by John Oxenham.



*Giving massage*



*Examination in massage*

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### Massage

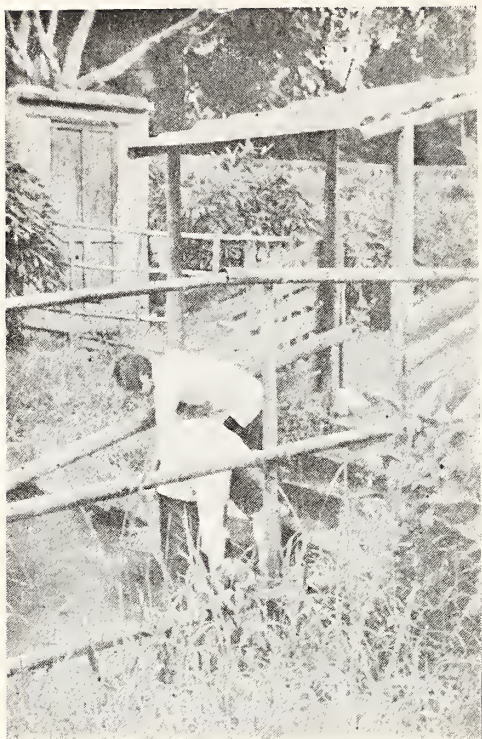
Mrs. C. N. Laird R.N. of Lingnan University in Canton started the training of blind pupils in massage in Ming Sum over twenty five years ago. She has untiringly kept up her constructive interest in many phases of the work of Ming Sum School and especially in massage. Each year she has been here she has come to give the examinations and suggest changes and improvements to the teachers. The field in massage is a broad one as calls come from hospitals, homes and schools of nursing.

Miss Suet Kei Lei was Mrs. Laird's first pupil and she has ably passed the torch of her learning on to her pupils.

Miss Mary W. Bischoff, R. N. of Hackett Medical Center, Canton, gave the examinations this year in Mrs. Laird's absence. This is another of the many ways Miss Bischoff is a friend to Ming Sum.

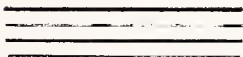


# DRAWING AND CARRYING WATER



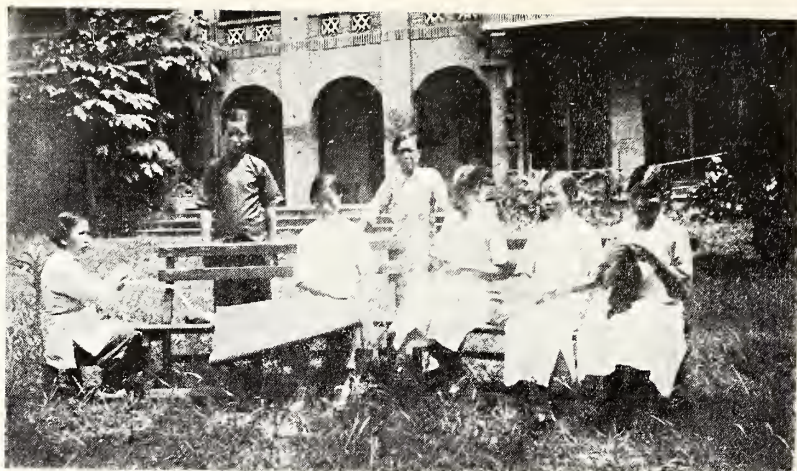


*Knitting accoraing to methods used at  
Perkins Institution.*



*Miss Maan on her wag to Shameen to get  
knitting orders.*





*Knitting, making mats, weaving tape, and making brushes.*



*The Industrial group admitted in 1912.*





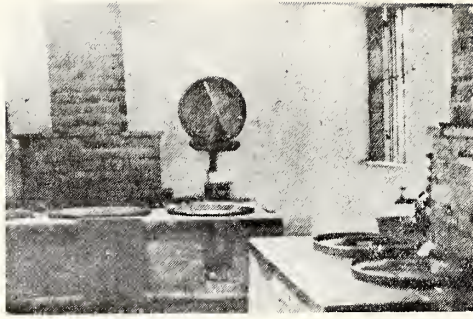
*Washing dishes*



*Sweeping*







*In the School kitchen*



*Scrubbing the walk*



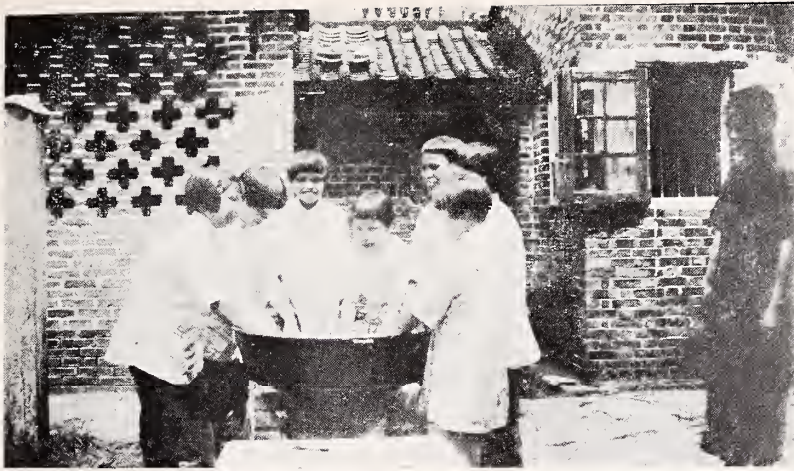
*Food is thus carried from the kitchen to the dining room*



*Cutting Grass*







*Washing*



*Making  
Brooms*



*Hanging out  
clothes*



## Ming Sum Sings

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We wish it were possible to give a sound picture of Ming Sum music. From the beginning music has been an important part to the school curriculum and the ministry of song at Ming Sum has gone far into the hearts of both the blind and the seeing.

Miss Margaret Chau gave many years of excellent training in teaching and reading music. Never has the playing or singing been by ear alone; the teachers have always followed the Braille notation of music. It was Miss Chau who laid the foundation for sure tones and love of singing that has gone on through five decades.

When the girls from the German School for the Blind came to Ming Sum in 1919, they brought with them thorough methods which gave a mellowness of tone to fine old songs and Christmas Carols that have become a tradition here.

Miss Annie D. Hancock of the New Zealand Presbyterian Mission gave of her time to teach better singing and laid special emphasis on the training of the speaking voice.

Mrs. James Carnegie, Jr. came every week for more than a year to teach new songs and better technique. The concert under her supervision pleased many and provided money to help build the Mary Niles Memorial Hall in 1932.

Miss Lucille Shoop and the Rev. Hedley Bunton came between air-raids in 1938 to help the music teachers with new music from America.

Many people in the United States have questioned the policy of teaching western music here. We feel that music speaks a universal language and time has proved the joy and deep satisfaction to those in South China who do not see. The music

of the "sing-song girl" cannot be taught here and the songs from the drama of China are not suited to chorus singing. Consequently the songs and hymns of the West have found a place in China and Chinese tunes are used when possible.

In South China there is no position open to the trained blind worker except in a Christian community. The old conception was that a girl without sight could be only a prostitute and a blind boy a fortune teller. A knowledge of music has enabled many sightless individuals to give service in schools, hospital evangelistic programs and in rural communities, as they have played the organ, led the singing and taught the children.



*The Choir*

Three blind teachers at Ming Sum have the responsibility of teaching piano, organ and chorus work. Miss Faan was taught by Miss Chau and Miss Hancock, and studied in the Lo Tak and Union Normal Schools in Canton. Miss Faan, in turn became the teacher of Miss Laai and Miss Uen as they came as little girls in 1912. They continued their work in Normal schools in Canton and Wuchow.

During July and August of 1939, through the gift of American friends in Canton and the United States, Miss Kathleen Bond has taught music in Ming Sum—to the entire school, to the teachers, to the Junior High School girls and to the boys. She has given a lift and help to the music—one of the loveliest gifts of the Fiftieth Anniversary Year. All at Ming Sum and all friends of the school rejoice that the pupils and teachers may have this training, an excellent technique given through a loving understanding heart. She has inspired those she teaches to round and deeper tones, and to sing more from within.

“Since singing is so good a thing  
I wish all men would learn to sing”  
William Byrd.

There is always music somewhere in the Ming Sum Compound—a piano, an organ, a group of children singing in the outdoor Chapel, an older group singing in their dormitories, and at the end of the day, the evening hymns. This month we have all awakened and renewed our joy and gratefulness that music is so large a part of our life. For a half hour each day after Chapel we have learned great new hymns. Giving attention mostly to the meaning and mood, a new depth and sincerity of tone has come from a real response to both words and music. With the teachers and Junior High School girls we have talked more of methods, of posture and of materials. Songs of many kinds have been learned accurately and thoroughly and have been sung with vitality and movement. We have chosen happy songs, songs of praise, of Thanksgiving, of Faith, of Petition. These will be taught to the whole school, and then the older girls, in turn, will take them out into the villages and churches and schools.

(Miss) Kathleen L. Bond,  
Union Normal School  
Macau.

(At Ming Sum School as teacher of  
Music in July and August of 1939.)



*Miss Kathleen Bond and the three music teachers.*



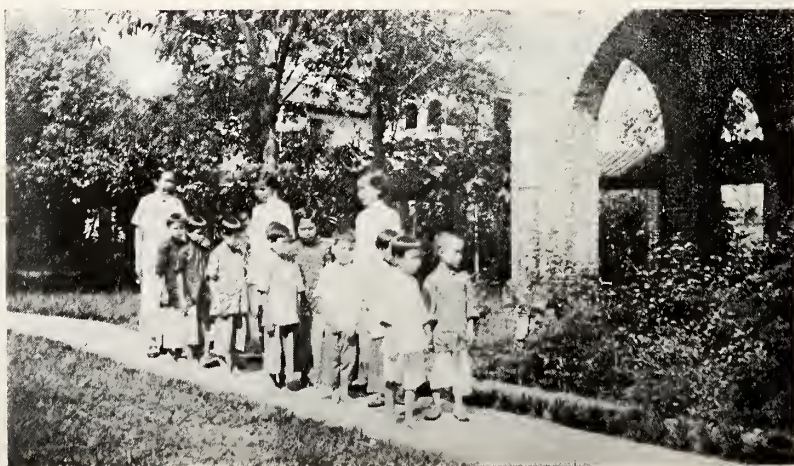
Miss Bond was graduated from The Biblical Seminary in New York, then taught five years at Lo Tak and Mei Wa Schools in Canton. She returned to America and studied at Teachers College, Columbia University, where she received a B. S. in Music Education. The next five years were spent in teaching music at Gingling College, Nanking. These years of experience were crowned with three semesters at Westminster Choir College, Princeton, New Jersey.

Miss Bond returned to China to teach music at the Union Normal School, temporarily located at Macao. She gladly came for a month to give her best to the music life of Ming Sum. She has promised to continue this help by giving her advice in the choice of music and by coming again next year. Thus new vitality and depth have been added to insure a better ministry of song.



*Motion song*

— \* —

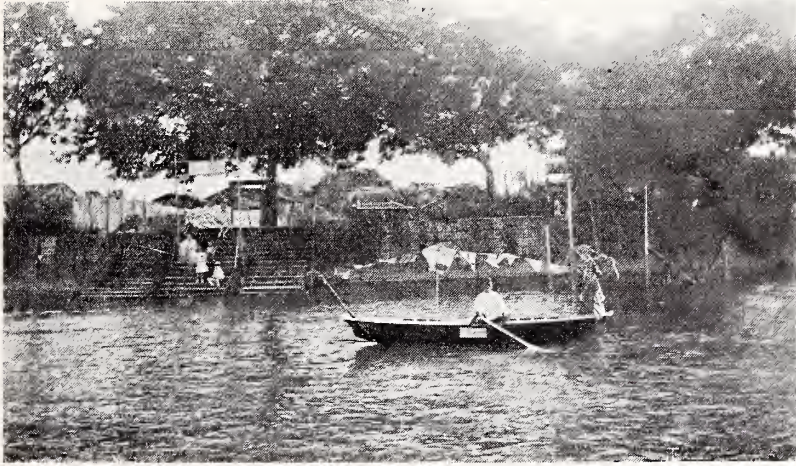


*They Sing as They Walk.*

## MING SUM PLAYS

You put the little stars to sleep  
And wake the sun each day;  
I'm glad, dear God, for I'm a child  
Who likes to run and play.

E. McE. Shields.



*The launching of the "Perky Pan"*

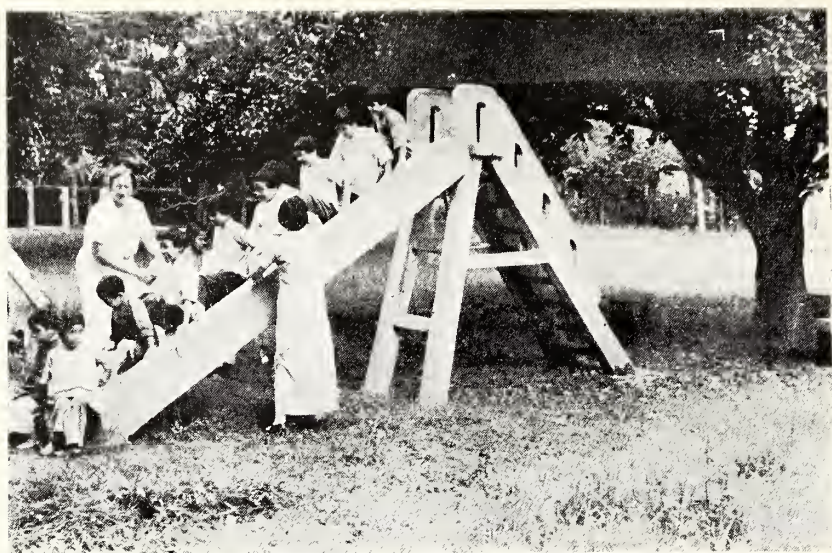


*Perky—the Ming Sum Mascot  
in the "Perky Pan" before the launching*



*"Row, row, row your boat"*





*The Slide is  
always popular*



*"London  
Bridge"*



*The race!*





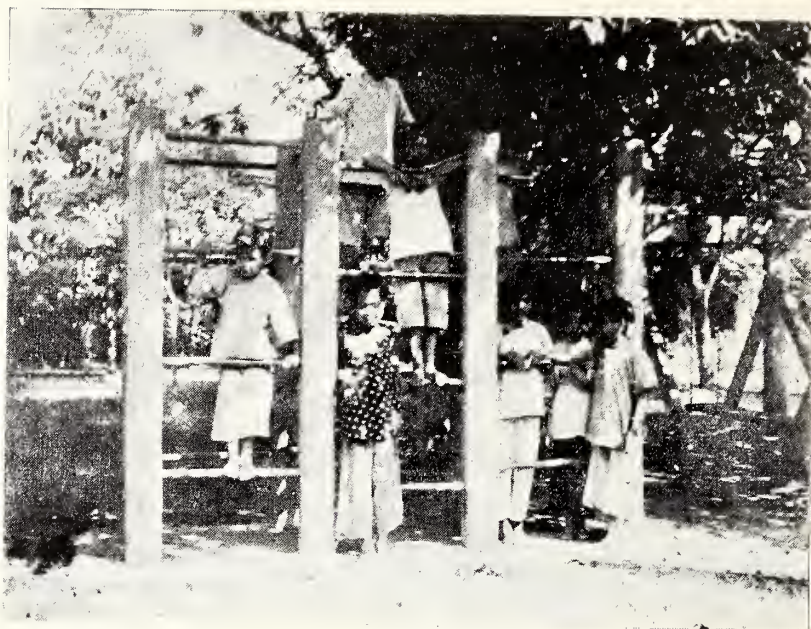
*Tug of War*



*"Swinging is such fun!"*



MING SUM PLAYS



*Climbing high on the Jungle Gym*



*"In and out the Window"*

## Ming Sum Graduates.

---



*Miss Mary W. Bischoff, R.N. presents diplomas in Massage.*

Incredible though it seemed to all of us at Ming Sum, another school year was successfully completed on June 27th, 1939 in spite of the fall of a great city with its attendant invasion, sixteen weeks of refugeeing on boats and all of the other unusual circumstances of the past months. The Turner Training School for Nurses at Hackett Medical Center and Ming Sum were the only two schools left in Canton and, therefore, the only two schools to hold graduation exercises in this city.

As the day set for graduation approached, the question uppermost in the minds of all was whether there would be any guests for, under existing conditions, the trip to Ming Sum has its hazards for the Chinese and its annoyances for foreigners. Nevertheless, preparations went on with the same whole-hearted earnestness and zeal customarily shown by Ming Sum teachers and pupils. Miss Bischoff came to examine the three candidates for certificates in massage and found them proficient and worthy of their diplomas. The silence of examination days was interspersed with joyous bursts of song as large and small practiced their own particular parts for the graduation program.

The lawn, left hard and bare in February by the trample of hundreds of refugee feet

had now reclothed its brown nakedness with a dress of fresh green for the occasion. The entire compound now looked the lovely garden it was meant to be.

On graduation day Miss Carpenter went out to the river to give the guests entrance through the famous gate in the barbed wire. With great delight we welcomed about one hundred guests, a larger number than had been present at Ming Sum's graduation for some years.

To most people, Ming Sum's singing gives special delight. It therefore plays a large part in every program. Graduation was no exception. Guests listened with joy but greater still was the joy in the faces, voices and hearts of the singers. The Junior High School girls sang several times. Two songs in English gave proof of the fact that Chinese children can learn to enunciate well and interpret with real feeling, the songs dear to the heart of another nation. One of the graduates played the mouth organ accompanied on the piano by a Junior High School girl. Each department of the school had ample opportunity to express its happiness through joyous melody. The first grade added to the enjoyment of the occasion by singing several motion songs. Mrs. Franklin Karcher of



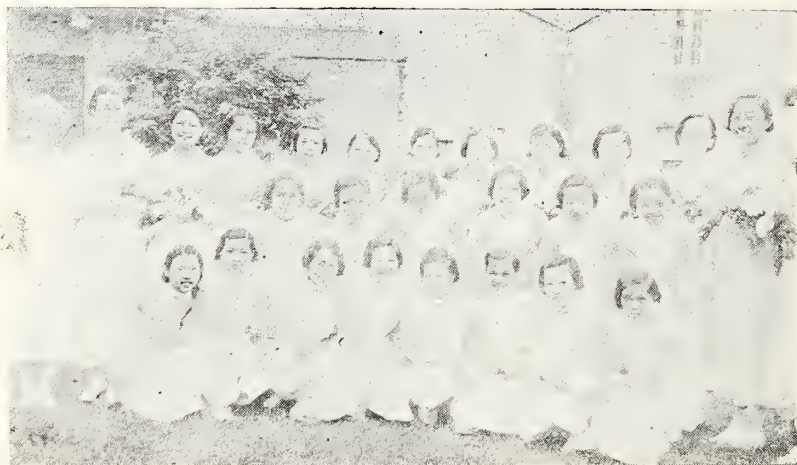
Hackett Medical Center generously shared her time and talent. Her singing, as always, was a real treat to Ming Sum.

It seemed especially appropriate to have Mr. E. W. Raetz of the Boat Mission talk to the graduates this year because he not only lived at Ming Sum during refugee days, but loaned us his boat to use as living quarters and helped in so many other ways such as securing rice, oil and fuel. Because Ming Sum feels he is a real friend his message will live long in the hearts of pupils and teachers.

It was a matter of much satisfaction to the graduates to be able to go forward, unassisted, to receive their diplomas. Three were given certificates for proficiency in massage and two of the three also received diplomas of graduation from Ming Sum's elementary school.

The day was a happy one for all, made happier because so many friends cared enough about the "School of the Understanding Heart" to brave the difficulties of the way to share in the joy of the graduates.

And so in the fiftieth anniversary year of its founding, Ming Sum graduates.



**Back row—standing:—**

*1939 Graduating Class of the Turner Training School for Nurses Hackett Medical Center with the newly capped student nurses.*



*The New Hospital Building at Hackett Medical Center.*



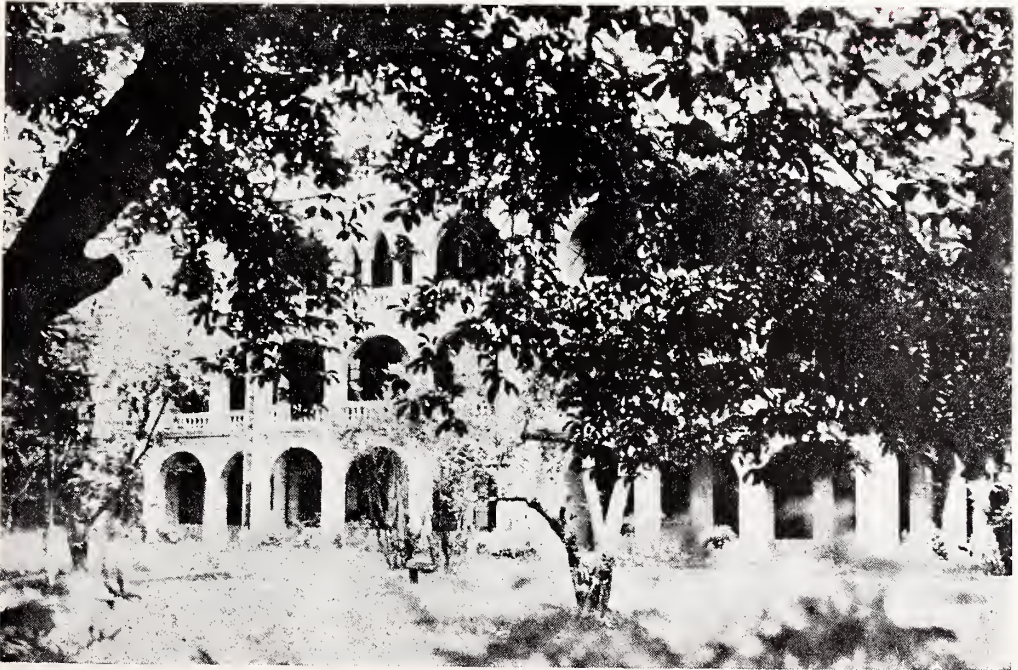
*The Staff at Hackett Medical Center. There has always been helpful cooperation between Hackett and Ming Sum.*

# Ming Sum has a garden

## MY GARDEN

Thomas Edward Brown

A garden is a lovesome thing, God wot !  
Rose plot,  
Fringed pool,  
Ferned grot —  
The veriest school  
Of peace : and yet the fool  
Contentends that God is not —  
Not God ! In gardens ! When the eve is cool ?  
Nay but I have a sign :  
'Tis very sure God walks in mine.

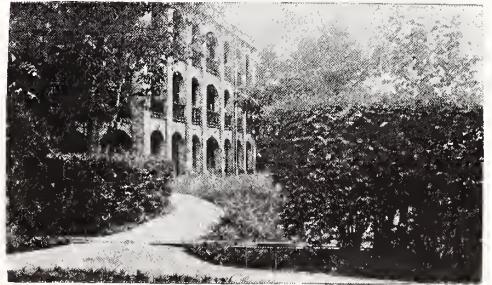




MING SUM HAS A GARDEN



MING SUM HAS A GARDEN



Growth

I did not know Thee Lord,  
Until my garden brought us face to face,  
Revealed Thy gracious miracle  
Of sun and seed in little space,  
Since I have seen Thine alchemy  
Turn earth-brown bulbs to living gold  
Of daffodils, eternity has seemed  
A simple truth to hold,  
No dim cathedral is as still  
As twilight in this holy place;  
I did not know Thee, Lord  
Until my garden brought us face to face

Anonymous.



## These Also Serve Ming Sum



*T'ai So, who carried the grass torch for Dr. Niles, still active in Ming Sum service.*



*Mr. LEI  
whose family for three generations have built  
well for Ming Sum.*



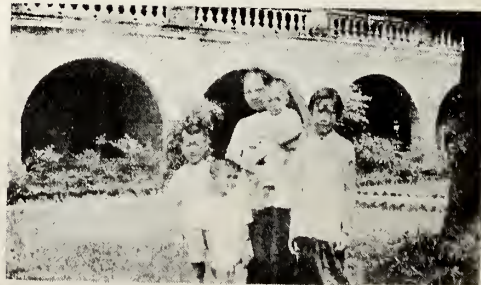
*KIU POH General helper for twenty five years.*



*The Gardeners.*



*These build for Ming Sum.*



*Future helpers.*



# THESE ALSO SERVE MING SUM



*The Well-digger.*



*The Carpenter.*



*AH KENG Twenty years of service at Ming Sum*



*Mr. Lee's sons who now carry on his work.*



*Chan Poh, for more than thirty years Dr. Niles's friend and cook. She has come back to Ming Sum and serves as school cook.*





*Girls brought to Ming  
Sum in 1936.*



*More of the 1936  
Group.*



*The same girls  
in 1939.*

## “Their Works Do Follow Them”

As I walked into the grounds of the Ming Sum School for the Blind in Canton, I seemed to sense the presence of those who had lived and loved and labored there. The very trees and blossoms whispered familiar names—“Mary W. Niles—Margaret Chau—Lucy Durham”. More than forty years slipped away, and I saw in retrospect that first little group who had been rescued by the compassionate physician from their hopeless lot. By faith she made herself responsible for their future, perhaps little dreaming of what would grow from that tiny beginning. Yet the vision ever beckoned her on; surely one may say that she and her successors “through faith wrought righteousness, obtained promises, out of weakness have been made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight armies”.

I had been absent from the city and was looking for one of the teachers to transact some business. Though I had read in the papers that the police in Canton were cleaning the streets of blind singing girls and forbidding the exploitation of these girls, I knew nothing of the fact that this school had been requested to receive some of the little girls and to send teachers to instruct others. Great was my surprise to find Miss Maan in front of one of the buildings in the act of receiving from representatives of the police department a great many bed mats, buckets, shoes and other necessary articles. With a few words of explanation she invited me to go inside to see the new arrivals who had been there only two days. The authorities were to provide the outfit for each child and pay a monthly allowance toward their support. I recalled the fact that this very building had been erected by the government on a similar occasion in 1912 when the school received from the Police Department seventy girls for whom there was then no accommodation.

I found Dr. Wong busy distributing new shoes to a very contented and orderly crowd of sixty four, and wondered greatly to see them looking so clean and happy as I recalled Dr. Niles's humorous description of the coming of the other class. Those poor children had been filled with lies as to the fate that awaited them from the hands of the “foreign devils” and had come determined to resist whatever was done to them. However, they soon found their mistake and changed their attitude to a very different one, which gradually became one of co-operative appreciation. I learned that the number sent by the police was twice what

the school had promised to receive and that a number were beyond the age limit prescribed, but for the time being all were being cared for. As it is impossible to mix the older ones and the children, fourteen had to be sent away later. They wept and said that they wanted to be taught to lead different lives, and one can but hope that other provision can be made for them.

As I came out Miss Maan said to me: “Surely the love of Christ has already touched the hearts of these girls for they have changed greatly in these two days. At first they were very hard to manage and fought when we tried to clean them up, but now they are submissive, eager to learn to sing and read”.

Then with a smile as if seeing one who was invisible, she added, “This was something that Dr. Niles longed and hoped to see. Remembering the words, “Seeing we are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses”, I replied.

“Surely she does see and rejoice !”

Written by Mrs. G. W. Marshall.  
American Presbyterian Mission.  
Canton.

May 5, 1936 after she saw the girls brought in by the Police Department in April of 1936. These pictures show them as they looked in 1936 and now in 1939.

To Dr. Wong came the responsibility of cleaning them and curing them. Some of Dr. Niles's old friends came back to help in this task. Dr. Wong still bears in her own body some of the results of too close contacts with the dirt and disease of those brought in, but they are now clean and whole. This was during Miss Carpenter's furlough and Dr. Wong had to make all plans for receiving this new group. Their coming was one of the many almost miraculous results of the New Life Movement as all departments of the National, Provincial and Municipal Government were quickened to reform of many sorts.

The children have been taught by all of the teachers but especially by some of the ones who were brought into the school in 1912. Miss Uen and Miss Laai came in 1912, rescued by Mr. Chan King Wa, received abundantly of all Ming Sum offered, then graduated from normal schools in Wuchow and Canton. They found joy and growth in teaching these newcomers. And thus the torch that had been lighted for them was passed on. May these learn increasingly to share their light.



## These Carry The Torch

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Miss Annie Yu (Yan Oi Yu) has just written an interesting story of her life, telling of the early memories of her home in Yueng Kong, South China, of her blindness at four years of age, of her coming to Ming Sum School and of her going to far Yunnanfu to start a school for the blind under the Chinese Home Missionary Society. We wish we could print it all here. It is a picture of miraculous change, growth and guidance.

Mrs. G. W. Marshall, then in Yeung Kong, introduced her to come to Ming Sum to study. She writes that "Dr. Niles loved us with her whole heart and was like a mother to all the children. She cared for our bodies as well as our souls and wanted us to be strong and well".

She pays tribute to Miss Faan as her music teacher and to Miss Margaret Chau of whom she says,

"She was always very just and it was her love that changed me and now I cannot thank her enough, especially for my music (she made me go on with my practice when I wanted to stop). How lonely I would be without my music now."

After she finished Ming Sum she went to other places to teach and was ever improving in her spirit and attitude.

In October of 1922 she bravely went to Yunnanfu. Of this she writes :—

"The call came to go to Yunnanfu. I felt I should go but was not yet ready. Finally I was willing and preparations were made. The same evening Dr. Niles had earnest prayer with me and gave me good advice. Miss Durham and Miss Chau comforted me, for they knew that it was not easy for me

because I was the only one from our school who had to go so far, and must leave all my friends and go to a strange place and speak a different language. But they committed me to the Lord so they had peace in letting me go".

The years from 1922 to 1929 were full of hard struggle as Miss Yu labored on with the administration, finances and teaching in the newly opened school. The whole responsibility was hers and it was almost too much for her. Finally there came help in the friends who now mean so much to Miss Yu. In May of 1929 Sister Adele and Sister Anna of the German part of the China Inland Mission arrived to take care of the school with Miss Yu. The history of the school since then has been one of great progress. Madame Chiang has visited it and has given it her help and sanction.

Of the coming of the two German Sisters, Miss Yu writes :

"On the sixteenth of July, 1929 Sister Anna and Sister Adele moved over to the school to stay with us. That was a great big joy for us. At that time I was loosed from my big burden because someone was with me to help me. It was really an answer to prayer that we received these helpers".

In 1932 Miss Yu with Sister Anna Muller visited us here at Ming Sum and brought inspiration as they told us of the step-by-step progress of the school in Yunnanfu, which is a direct result of the pioneer work here and of the loving vision and the belief that Dr. Niles had that the girls could go out and work in other places.

It is with great joy that we now receive their greetings and the account of the continued progress under God there.



*Miss Suet Kei Lei*  
*Ming Sum*



*The Blind Girls' School*  
*Kunming, Yunnan*



*Miss Lei with her first class in massage after*  
*she was taught by Mrs. C. N. Laird*



*Miss Annie Yu of Yunnanfu*  
*(Kunming)*



## What Ming Sum Means to Me

---

There was a big village where all of the people believed in idols. My home was one where idols were worshipped but it has now become a Christian home. I was the first in my family to follow Christ.

When I was born my parents loved me very much because I was the first girl in the family. How unfortunate that I lost my sight when I was four years old. From that time and forever I could not see all things of the world and could not share pleasure with persons. I remember when I was ten years old my relatives went to the theatre. I could not go with them. Then I hid in the bedroom and wept silently.

Sometimes I could not sleep well. Then I cried because I thought about my loss of sight. All things of the future seemed painful to me. O! my Heavenly Father loved me even though I did not know Him at that time, but He prepared all things for me.

He led me to Ming Sum School to study. Since I have come to Ming Sum I have been very happy in my life because I knew the lessons I learned gave me not only knowledge but also independence. Therefore I studied all lessons very hard. After I graduated I have been teaching in Ming Sum for more than twenty years and have had some work in schools for the sighted so that I could teach better. How much God has given me. How many things Ming Sum has given me. I thank God very much and am deeply grateful to Ming Sum.

When I am reading books or knitting or making clothes, I think if there were no Ming Sum I would be a useless person and my surroundings would be very difficult.

When I go to my home now, my family respect me. I think if there were no Ming Sum I would be sitting in a chair with nothing to do all day.

When I graduated from Ming Sum I knew Mrs. C. N. Laird who was my massage teacher. I asked her to help my brother go to school. How very happy I was when she promised me to do it. When my brother finished his school in China he went to America to study more. He became a minister. Again, I think if there were no Ming Sum I would be living in the poor village where I could not know my friend, Mrs. Laird.

This year is the Fiftieth Anniversary of Ming Sum School. The results of the fifty years are not as much as in a school for the seeing but Ming Sum has helped many sad people to get joy and work and true light. It has helped hundreds of people who were useless to be of use.

I hope that God will bless Ming Sum and guide my Mother School to do much more work and have more progress during the next fifty years.

(Composed by Miss Suet Kei Lei. She wrote it by herself and said what was in her heart without suggestions from anyone.)

“ THESE CARRY THE TORCH ”



Miss  
Wong—  
working with  
Children at  
Hackett  
Medical  
Center



Miss Lau washes dishes at Hackett Medical Center



Miss Wong teaches Bible, Music and reading to  
the children in the Pooi Ying Refugee Camp,  
Paak Hok Tung Canton



Miss Lau—working among lepers and boat  
people in a country district some distance  
from Canton

Miss Chui is the Rev. Calvin Lee's Assistant  
at one of the Canton city churches



## The Canton Association For The Blind.

In February 1939, the Canton Association for the Blind was formed. As it is a further step in the wonderful work carried on by the Ming Sum School, and a perfect compliment to that organization, what could be more fitting than that it should come into existence in the year in which Ming Sum celebrates its fiftieth anniversary?

The idea of such an Association was met with great enthusiasm by the many friends of the blind in Canton, and the drive for membership proved most successful. An executive committee, under the able chairmanship of Mrs. C. N. Laird was elected and proceeded to carry out its main purpose—"To Help the Blind to Help Themselves".

The aims of The Canton Association for the Blind, as laid down in its constitution, are threefold:—

- (1) To provide a hostel for trained blind persons.
- (2) To act as a placement bureau from which blind workers may be employed.
- (3) To provide work for the blind in the hostel and in their own homes.

Owing to unsettled conditions in the city of Canton at the present time it has been thought advisable to postpone the securing of a hostel to some later date. Instead, the committee decided, with the kind permission of those in charge of the camps, that, for the present, those blind who come under the auspices of the Association should be maintained at the refugee camps or boarded out in private houses where some of them have found shelter.

The Association is fully cognizant of the two great needs of blind people in all walks of life, which are that they be saved from the terrible lot of enforced idleness to which their handicap leaves them open, and that they be made to feel useful citizens in the midst of the seeing world. They need books and the ability to read them, and they need training in doing those things which are within their power, such as knitting, massage, caning, weaving and so on. Keeping in mind these psychological requisites of blind people as well as the obvious purely physical ones, the Association has already been able to do much for the blind of Canton.

Three Braille slates have been given to the blind women living at Lingnan, and through the kind help of Mrs. S. K. Hoh, who reads aloud to them, they are now transcribing many books which will form the nucleus of the Association's library. A Ming Sum graduate living at Hackett Medical Centre is also transcribing many needed books as patients are able to read to her. The Association is paying her board at Hackett.

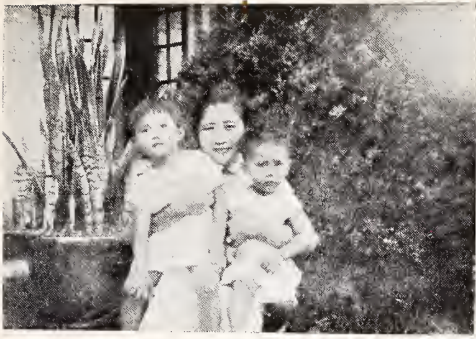
Until the present time, the Ming Sum School for the Blind has had to limit its students to those who had some family or friends who would guarantee their welfare after graduation. Since the Canton Association for the Blind has come into existence, this scope has been greatly widened, for friendless blind children can be guaranteed future help by the Association. Thus seven girls and five boys who otherwise would have no hope of education are now being supported and educated at Ming Sum.

The Association is also paying the salary of a Ming Sum graduate who teaches reading, music, and Bible study to children at the Social Centre of the Wai Oi Church. It supports at Ming Sum a graduate of the School for the Blind in Shek-Kei, who had all her possessions stolen by bandits when she tried to return home from Canton. She is studying special music here until there is an opportunity for her to go back safely. A young blind woman at Fong Tsuen found refuge with some impoverished friends, and the Association helped to buy her food. Unfortunately she died but again the Association was able to help by paying her funeral expenses.

Because of unsettled conditions and the difficulties of travelling at the present time, it had seemed that the teachers and high school girls of Ming Sum would not have their well-earned holiday this year. Again thanks to the Association, two months' rent has been paid for a house at Lingnan where they can have a pleasant rest and change in quiet cool surroundings.

Thus it can be seen from the above examples how great is the need for such an organization as the Canton Association for the Blind, and how broad is the scope of its work. May it grow and prosper as Ming Sum has done before it, and may it always fulfill its main purpose of helping the blind to help themselves.

MRS. D'A. BAKER-CARR.



*Mrs. S. K. Hoh and children, Lingnan University, whose husband is in the department of industrial chemistry. Mrs. Hoh reads to the blind girls at Lingnan for Braille transcribing.*



*Miss Lau at Hackett Medical Center, transcribing books into Braille as a patient reads to her.*



*The group supported by the Canton Association for the Blind at Ming Sum.*





*Group of blind girls at Lingnan Refugee Camp provided with work by the Canton Association for the Blind.*



*Hing So Lai*

*Dr. Otto's concern for the welfare of this girl gave the impulse for the founding of the Canton Association for the Blind.*



*Miss Mak at Wai Oi Church, Canton, surrounded by her pupils.*



# The Organization of the Canton Association for the Blind

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During the year 1937—1938 there crystallized, out of many helpful contacts in America, three important goals toward which all connected with Ming Sum resolved to work, namely, THE MARY NILES CAMP, THE PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS PROGRAM, and the formation of THE CANTON ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND.

THE CANTON ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND IS NO LONGER A DREAM. It is a reality.

In November of 1938, Dr. J.H.F. Otto, a prominent German doctor in Canton asked if Ming Sum School, then temporarily on boats near Shameen, could receive the two blind women who had been taken to him to the Red Cross Hospital for safety from the chaos of those days. We explained that we could not take adults with children, as Ming Sum is definitely a school, but that for these women and others, we hoped for an Association for the Blind in Canton. Dr. Otto understood the situation and at that moment resolved to lend his efforts to start the Association.

He discussed the situation with Mr. D. L. Dawson, Manager of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China. Both Mr. and Mrs. Dawson have given much help to Ming Sum. On February 3, 1939 an organization meeting was held in Mr. Dawson's home. There gathered a group of naval, business and missionary people, representing England, Australia, Germany, India, China, and the United States, and on that day THE CANTON ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND became a legal entity. On February 10, 1939 the first executive meeting was held at Ming Sum School. The following officers were elected out of a Committee chosen by the Association.

## PRESIDENT.

Mrs. C. N. Laird, Lingnan University

## VICE-PRESIDENTS

Mrs. d'A. Baker-Carr, Shameen

Dr. J. H. F. Otto, Red Cross Hospital

## TREASURER

Miss Grace M. Rupert, Hackett Medical Center

## SECRETARY

Miss Mary Bischoff, Hackett Medical Center.

## MEMBERS AT LARGE

Dr. R. L. Lancaster, Shameen,

Brigadier Wm. Darby, Salvation Army, Canton.

## MING SUM SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE:

Miss Alice M. Carpenter.

Out of this strange chaotic year has come this progressive, constructive, forward-looking movement in Canton. Along with other groups and individuals, Ming Sum is thankful for her part in it.

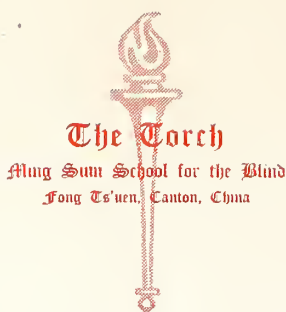
We repeat James Russell Lowell's lines with new meaning—

“Nor is he far astray who deems  
That every thought that rises and  
grows broad

In the great world's heart,  
by ordered impulse streams  
From the heart of God.”

Reprinted from The Torch  
Vol. 1, No. 1. May 1939.





*To give permanent record of the beginning of THE TORCH we reprint this page from the first issue of THE TORCH along with these welcome greetings from Dr. Farrell, Director of Perkins Institution, and Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Mather.*

It was in 1882 that Dr. Mary West Niles came to Canton under the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. She was a young doctor in whose heart was the love of God and in whose hands was the skill of an excellent surgeon. She gave of her youth and ardor in Canton Hospital, the first hospital in Asia. From there she went on her errands of healing, through the great gates and dark streets, into the heart of old Canton. Before her walked her faithful Chinese assistant, carrying the twisted torch of native grass. There was no "oil for the lamps of China" then.

Many strange sights came to her through the light cast by the grass torch, not the least tragic of which were the blind slave girls, singing their sad songs in the shadow.

Impelled by a motive more than pity, she held high the torch of her purpose through the darkness of opposition and discouragement. In 1889 she started the Ming Sum School for the Blind, the School of the UNDERSTANDING HEART. She resolved that the fingers and hearts of the blind should see. She willed

that the visually handicapped should go back to live and work with their seeing friends. This they have done for half a century, and thus has the torch of her endeavors lighted the dark path for many.

To Dr. Gabriel Farrell of Perkins Institution and Massachusetts School for the Blind in Watertown, Massachusetts we are grateful for suggestions and for THE TORCH cut which through him was presented to us by Mr. Ernest Nichols of Newton, Massachusetts. We thank Mr. Nichols and are proud to have the same design that was formerly used by Perkins Institution from which school we have received so much of friendliness and help.

The Board of Directors of Ming Sum School for the Blind has designated THE TORCH as the official house organ of the school, to be published semi-annually, usually in July and January.

This first issue appears in May to give the story of the past months, to tell of plans, and to call attention to the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of Ming Sum School. With it goes the gratitude of the Chinese and American staff to many friends for interest and help, and also the deep resolve to carry on and pass to others, under the guidance of God, the torch that has been given to us.

Alice M. Carpenter.

## Greetings from Perkins

Rising from the center of our main building, named after Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe, the First Director, and a pioneer in work for the blind in this country, is a tall tower of concrete. Surmounting the tower is a lantern. Architecturally this signifies that the tower is part of an educational building, rather than an ecclesiastical. It implies that light radiates from this center.

When we started our school paper several years ago, we named it "The Lantern," for the purpose of indicating that its purpose is to bring light. "The Lantern" has found its way into many countries and many places and from the letters that we receive we have reason to believe that it is fulfilling its purpose. Away over in China, a long distance from us in miles, but closer in the bonds of friendliness, you are starting a paper and have named it "The Torch". Its purpose, likewise, is to give light and I feel sure that guided by those who are interested in it this will be fulfilled.

In this undertaking we wish you every success and to this new paper in a very old land we send greetings from an older paper in a comparatively new land. May the rays of your "Torch" be far-reaching and undimmed as the years move on.

Gabriel Farrell,

Director of Perkins Institution and  
Massachusetts School for the Blind  
Watertown, Massachusetts.

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My husband and I were filled with thankfulness, pride and joy on receiving THE TORCH from Lighthouse No. 10. Will you please accept our heartfelt congratulations for the officers and the crew of Lighthouse No. 10 on this concrete evidence of their pluck in carrying on and increasing the work despite extraordinarily difficult conditions.

Since our visit to Ming Sum ten years ago we have followed every step of the work with intense interest and admiration of the intrepid achievement. One of our bravest workers is a friend, who, when he was twenty-two had his eyes blown out and his hands blown off. He was then uneducated, and in addition, owing to his treatment at the hospital, had become an

opium addict. He fought King Opium and beat him, educated himself, committed 50,000 words to memory, became a remarkably good lecturer, has supported himself by lecturing in many universities, has written a best-seller, and is one of the greatest missionaries and international Christians. We are sure that he would want to join us in congratulating you on your publication on your return to Ming Sum and your continuance and development of your beautiful program to educate the blind so that they may not only become self-helpful, but, as he is, to be the best teachers and missionaries to the seeing, and to help in the good fight against all blindness, physical and spiritual.

As my friend, Helen Keller, says to me, blindness is not the chief affliction of the blind, but the attitude of the seeing people to them.

With love, repeated congratulations, and every good wish there is for your successful carrying out of your program and reaching your Ideals of Service, from the crew and passengers of Lighthouse No. 1 for now and forever and ever, in all of which my husband and I join with deep, deep admiration, I am,

Your affectionate friend,  
The Lighthouse Keeper,  
Winifred Holt Mather (Mrs. R. G.),  
Honorary Secretary,  
Honorary Founder,  
The New York Association for the Blind  
Lighthouse No. 1,  
III East 59th Street, New York,  
New York.

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As a record of the many happenings of the Fiftieth Anniversary year we reprint the High Lights from The Torch, May 15-1939.

AUGUST—1938.

All of the blind and seeing teachers had two weeks of freedom from the strain in Canton in Heep Yunn School of the English Church Missionary Society in Hong Kong. There they were received as friends and as such they enjoyed the life with the teachers and children there. This was made possible by the gift of \$200.00 Hong Kong currency from the Women's International Club of Canton. The idea was proposed



by Mrs. D. L. Dawson, who told the club of the need of the teachers to get away, and of their desire to feel the sea and to pick up shells on the sea shore. Glorious free days at the shore were given by Miss Mary Bischoff. This was the fore-runner of the Mary Niles Camp.

SEPTEMBER—1938.

School opened with:

Blind teachers,	women, 8
Seeing teachers,	women, 6
Kindergarten through the sixth grade,	girls, 65; boys 11
Junior High School,	girls, 8
Industrial department,	women 41
	men 2.

The Presbyterian Mission promised to subsidize the cost of the translation and printing of as much of the prevention of blindness material as we can use.

On September 23, Miss Alice H. Schaefer arrived to share in the life of Ming Sum School in the many ways in which she is capable. In 1923-1924 when Miss Schaefer studied Cantonese in Canton in preparation for her nine years as Principal of a Cantonese School in Bangkok, Siam, she lived at Ming Sum, and became beloved of all here. A heart-felt welcome was given to her as an old friend returning, this time to stay with us.

OCTOBER—1938.

Dr. Wong, Miss Schaefer and Miss Carpenter spent many days of planning according to the helpful advice of Consul-General Irving N. Linnell, organizing for the crisis which came October 21. On that day the school was moved to three rented feast boats, anchored by the Gospel boats near Shameen, about fifteen minutes by row boat from the Ming Sum buildings. This was done as a safety measure for the school. Through the courtesy and kindness of Commodore John Stapler U. S. N. and Lieutenant-Commander J. P. Clay, U. S. N. of the South China Patrol, a naval guard escorted the teachers and children from Ming Sum to the boats. Miss Schaefer went with them, and for sixteen weeks lived next to the school on one of the Gospel boats, generously loaned by Mr. E. W. Raetz of the South China Boat Mission. She gave courage and hope as she shared with our Ming Sum friends the experiences of those weeks. Dr. Wong organized and administered the affairs on the boats with rare ability. Miss Grace M. Rupert of Hackett Medical Center and a member of Ming Sum Board of Directors lived with Miss Schaefer for six weeks and assisted Ming Sum in countless ways.

The officers and crew of the U. S. S. MINDANAO gave protection and morale with their daily visits. The food supply was adequate because of Dr. Wong's excellent ability in planning and organizing.

According to Consular and Mission advice Miss Alice M. Carpenter stayed on the Ming Sum property in Fong Tsuen, in order to hold it for the school. There with Mr. H. P. Bunton of the London Mission and Mr. E. W. Raetz of the Boat Mission, and a very able Chinese staff consisting of Dr. Loh To Shang, Mrs. Wu Lee, Mr. Man Tung Lee and others a refugee camp was organized.

The beautiful old place that has been known to so many through the tens of years gave refuge to 1200 needy people in a time of great danger and need. They used the facilities of the buildings for cooking and sleeping, and many cooked out in the garden on little native stoves. Food, wood and other supplies were given by the Canton Areas Refugee Committee who administered funds from English, Chinese, and American sources. The other camp expenses were carried by American friends in Canton and America.

From the roofs of Ming Sum buildings and from the feast boats, it was a heart-breaking sight to watch the partial destruction of a great and well-loved city by fire—Canton, for more than 2,000 years the market place for many of the treasures of the Orient.

NOVEMBER—1938.

Ming Sum classes were resumed on the boats which served as class rooms, sleeping quarters, and dining rooms at various times of the twenty four hours. There was much to be thankful for as the annual Thanksgiving service was held as we all thought of the days that had just passed. We were glad indeed for safety of persons and school buildings, for food, friends, plenty of work to do and for peaceful hearts.

DECEMBER—1938.

After many weeks of being on the crowded boats, Mr. D. L. Dawson made it possible for all of the school to go, on two successive Sundays, on the launch loaned by Mr. d'A. Baker-Carr, down the river to the Jardine property where teachers and children could run without let or hindrance. And every one had the new experience of **feeling** a horse, which the German Riding Academy friends very obligingly held for them. Great astonishment was registered that the animal had such a LONG face.

Unexpected gifts from many friends came. A trip to Hong Kong on the British gun-boat made it possible to buy several gifts for each teacher and child out of the fund which grew so miraculously.

The Christmas concert was held on the boats and we were glad to have as our guests many from the British and American Navies, as well as other friends.

As Commodore Stapler said as he watched them work, sing and play, "This is unique."

The girls went in different groups to sing at Hackett Medical Center, Canton Hospital, and in three refugee camps.

The traditional singing of carols at midnight on Christmas Eve reached the ears of more than ever before as the old songs floated out over the water with their message of peace.

#### JANUARY—1939.

A strange New Year in Canton. There were many problems of adjustment to the new conditions to be met every day.

The industrial department of Ming Sum finished their order of knitting 115 pounds of wool for the Foreign Women's Unit on Shameen. The garments made were distributed in the various refugee camps in Canton.

The older girls and staff knitted 100 pounds of wool, furnished by the Canton Refugee Committee, as their contribution to the refugee work.

#### FEBRUARY—1939.

On February 1 the Canton International Red Cross paid \$670.00 Hong Kong currency to cover the boat rent for the time from October 18, 1938 to February 8, 1939.

On February 3, an international group helped to start THE CANTON ASSOCIATION for the BLIND.

The refugees from the Ming Sum Compound were moved to other camps or sent to their homes if they had any left. This difficult task was well done by Mr. H. P. Bunton, Dr. Loh To Shang, and other members of the Chinese staff. For two weeks many of the Ming Sum staff worked from morning until night to clean the gardens and buildings.

At last February 8, the day set for the home-coming arrived. Again Commodore Stapler and Lieutenant-Commander Clay sent a naval guard to help the school from the boats to the Compound. There was

great rejoicing on the part of teachers, children and Miss Schaefer at being back home in Fong Tsuen. We were all grateful to our good friends in the Navy. Also every one expressed appreciation to the Boat Mission for the friendliness through the weeks of being neighbors. We shall forever remember the faithful co-operation of our friends, the Chinese boat people, without whom we cannot function.

#### MARCH—1939.

There was a break of only a few days in classes after returning to the Ming Sum Compound, and all of March saw the regular schedule being followed. The Chinese Staff were peacefully busy in the school.

The two American members of the staff were much engrossed in the settlement of "portal perplexities." This necessitated countless visits to military headquarters and took many hours. Not yet all finished!

#### APRIL—1939.

Holy Week was filled for all of us with deep new meaning this year as we entered more fully into the fellowship of His sufferings.

On Monday Miss Bischoff helped to set the atmosphere for the week by playing Stainer's "THE CRUCIFIXION" on the Victrola, after an excellent translation into Chinese of the meaning by the Rev. W. S. Johnston had been read to the staff and children.

Good Friday evening the Rev. C. H. Lewis conducted the Communion Service, made the more beautiful by the setting. As we sat in the MARY NILES HALL looking out on our own lovely garden, we were reminded afresh of THE GARDEN of old.

At dawn on Easter morning accompanied by the first bird note, the girls who had sung so beautifully for the Palm Sunday service at Hackett Medical Center, lifted up their songs of praise to mingle with the others sung around the world, each as the dawn came to them. This has long been a tradition but this year, as we listened to it in our peaceful garden, it was more poignantly beautiful than ever before.

The problem of ingress and egress, we hope, has been settled, upon the acquisition of two rather remarkable keys.

#### MAY—1939.

Plans are being made for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the founding of Ming Sum School, as both Chinese and foreign staff work together to present a good picture of



the half century. We hope to have it ready before October of 1939.

Also we are working for the concert which we hope to hold on Shameen sometime in October, the proceeds from which are to be divided among THE MARY NILES CAMP, THE CANTON ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND, AND THE CANTON AREAS REFUGEE COMMITTEE.

The work for the blind has received generous gifts during this month. The Thursday Club of Canton gave \$500.00 National Currency to the Canton Association for the Blind, The Trustees of the Zoroastrian Charity Funds of Hong Kong, Canton and Macau gave a gift toward the rice fund of Ming Sum School, the Women's International Club gave \$100.00 H. K. currency as the initial Fiftieth Anniversary gift for the MARY NILES Camp Fund, and the Westchester Presbyterian Society of

New York gave \$100.00 U.S. currency. For all these gifts and others, we are most grateful.

Still knitting to be done, thanks to Mrs. Baker-Carr and Mrs. Newman of Shameen.

The first issue of The Torch goes to Press.

#### JUNE—1939.

Graduation with one boy and one girl, finishing the sixth grade and two girls and a boy receiving diplomas in massage.

#### JULY—1939.

A summer school for 50 seeing children was conducted in Ming Sum Compound by Miss Laai, a Ming Sum blind teacher with the help of other blind and seeing teachers and the Junior High School girls. Miss Kathleen Bond gave new life and zest to the Ming Sum music.



*The Junior High School girls and blind teachers with the children of the Summer School.*



*Miss Laai using the abacus to teach arithmetic to seeing boys.*

## The Mary Niles Camp.

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This first issue of THE TORCH will reach you just as you are thinking in terms of vacations and summer camps. Can you recall a time when you did not know the meaning of vacation, summer camps and conferences? Last summer, through the instrumentality of generous friends, some of the blind teachers of Ming Sum discovered, for the first time, the joys of the seashore; the splash of water, the trickling sands, the whispered secret of the sea shells.

The experience was so satisfying that the Ming Sum Board of Directors voted to make a summer camp for Ming Sum's teachers and children a project for this fiftieth anniversary year. It is hoped that a suitable site may be found near Hong Kong where last year's experience may be repeated many times, and where occasional conferences may be held during the year.

The Bishop of Hong Kong is looking for a site at which a Christian camp center may be established. Ming Sum's camp will be part of this community, thus affording contact with sighted young people in normal fellowship and fun.

It was voted to call the Ming Sum unit of the proposed holiday center THE MARY NILES CAMP in honor of Ming Sum's founder. Some money has already been received. More is needed. The cost of land and housing is comparatively little. We are hoping that many will share their vacation this year that the MARY NILES CAMP may become an actual reality—a place of dreams come true.

Alice H. Schaefer.

Reprinted from "The Torch"

Vol. 1 No. 1 May 15, 1939.



*Bishop Hall and Dr. A. J. Fisher viewing  
one of the proposed sites for the  
Mary Niles Camp.*



*Another possible Site for the Camp.*



## Our Hopes for the Future

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We shall briefly state our hopes for the future, work toward them in the midst of each day's activities, and pray for strength and opportunity for realizing them.

We long to see the Prevention of Blindness Program carried out all over this province and linked up with a national organization which the leaders of China were working for. We have funds from the American Presbyterian Mission in Canton for printing the material generously sent to us from the United States from the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness in New York City. The immediate problem is to get it properly translated and disseminated.

Our dreams for the MARY NILES CAMP are forming into realities as the fund is growing from the gifts of friends. The site by the sea in Hong Kong is sure as friends there are working on it. Let your own imagination finish the picture of

this enterprise for you as you watch the teachers and children resting and playing by the sea, being verily re-created as they come into a fuller experience of life with seeing friends in a Christian Holiday Center. There is a glorious going-on into broader experiences in this picture. We are most grateful to all who are helping us realize it and we trust growing interest will go far on into future.

We believe that THE CANTON ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND will continue to grow and extend its help through this whole province to any needy blind who are willing to work.

We see, too, the day when our blind friends will be better trained to work with seeing young people who will be willing to co-operate with them as they work together in the tasks that face China in the years ahead.



## Towards A Larger Ministry

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Often the fairest and most fragrant flowers lift their heads out of the vilest filth and muck. Looking about us just now it is difficult to see anything but muck and difficult to remember that it is possible for fair flowers yet to bloom. But I am reminded of the beautiful resurrection lily which puts forth its leaves only to die. Then when all trace of the plant seems to have disappeared, a miracle takes place and a lovely bloom lifts up its glorious head to give forth its fragrance and to fill man's heart with joyous wonder. So, in spite of apparent muck on all sides, hope fills the heart and mind with dreams for the future and faith sees the vision already fulfilled. In the vision of the future we see Ming Sum's graduates growing in service and usefulness.

One of the greatest problems facing those who seek to train the blind is that of securing employment for those who have completed their years of preparation. The solution to this problem rests with the seeing who have it in their power to employ those deprived of sight. Perhaps we need to concentrate more fully on a campaign for the education of the sighted with regard to the blind in order to convince them that those trained in our schools for the blind are proficient along certain lines of work and able to give valuable service.

To accomplish this end we need larger opportunity for the pupils and teachers of Ming Sum to increase their contacts with the seeing. One means to this end, the Association for the Blind, is already an accomplished fact. In a short time this Association has rendered intestimable service. Another

means towards the accomplishment of further contact is the proposed Christian holiday center of which the Mary Niles Camp is to be a part. Here it is hoped the Ming Sum teachers and pupils will be able to join with seeing young people in conferences of various kinds, in retreats, in fellowship hours and in play. We feel sure that those who thus come into intimate contact with the trained blind will be convinced of their normal reactions, of their eagerness to avoid being set apart as different, of their willingness to take part in normal activities, of their qualifications and preparation to participate in such activities, and of the fact that their specialized training makes their employment highly desirable.

In connection with future activities, it is hoped that the older pupils of Ming Sum may share with trained seeing young people in village evangelism either in connection with churches or in small evangelistic bands—under supervision. Their knowledge of Bible and music makes them specially fitted for this and with some added training in methods, there is no reason why at least one blind girl should not be a part of each evangelistic group.

There is a future for Ming Sum's graduates and the possibility for a larger ministry of service. This service will expand or be circumscribed according to the willingness on the part of our seeing friends to give them an opportunity to prove themselves. So, as we look into the future we are hoping that the number of friends with understanding hearts will be increased and thus enable Ming Sum to have a larger ministry of useful service.



## In Answer To Your Questions

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The official and legal name of Ming Sum School is MING SUM SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND.

It has never been called a **Blind School** nor do we wish it to be so called now. Dr. Niles was most particular about the proper name being used. The term "Blind School" carries with it an unpleasant connotation that all educators of the blind are trying to get away from for the sake of our friends who do not see. To us from America, "Blind School" connotes a drab, dull, severe kind of place that savors of the old Asylum idea. Most schools for the blind now are as attractive as they can be made. This desire to make the Compound a place of beauty and light began when Dr. Niles planted the beloved old banyans and many other trees that were given to her from dear friends and which still bear their names—Miss Noyes, Miss Butler, Dr. Henry, and many others. It went on as Miss Durham planned the garden and as others have put in hedges, more trees and flowers and little spots of quiet and beauty. May many more friends come to know Ming Sum School as a School **FOR** the Blind, where those without sight are surrounded with beauty and light and happy times as they work and play and prepare to go out as normal individuals.

Ming Sum School for the Blind in Fong Tsuen, Canton, China is a residential school for blind girls and boys, from kindergarten through Junior High School, founded in 1889 by Dr. Mary West Niles under the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. The curriculum is of the same standard as in schools for the seeing, with special emphasis on manual dexterity that will enable those without sight to earn as much of their living as possible as they return to their own communities. The teaching is done through the medium of Cantonese, Mandarin, and English Braille.

The industrial work is adapted to the needs of those without sight in South China so that they may carry it on without supervision when they leave the school. All orders for foreign knitting are most gladly taken, and are done over until they are satisfactory to those who trust Ming Sum. For the older women under Ming Sum there is very little but knitting that will bring

any financial income. They are taught to make Chinese garments so that they can do it to please the ones who will give them work when there are no Foreigners around. The boys make brooms from cocoanut fibre and from bamboo and palm leaves. These cannot bring much to the makers as sighted labor is so cheap. However, with some seeing friend to lend a little help, many of the boys and men have been able to make a living in the communities where they live.

The land about four acres, in Fong Tsuen, Canton, on which the school is built was bought by Dr. Mary Niles in 1906 with American money raised by her friends, and from some gifts from New Zealand, England, and Australia. The Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., 156 Fifth Avenue, New York, owns the property, and the deeds are held in trust by the Presbyterian Mission in South China. The compound was all swamp land and has been filled in to make the beautiful place it now is. There are six buildings used by the school and one building is reserved and kept in repair by the Mission for the foreign staff. Dr. Wong has a house and garden of her own, made possible by the fact that the heirs of Dr. C. C. Selden were willing to sell it to the school for so low a figure. The interest from the Endowment fund given by Mrs. Lucy Happer Glover, a friend of Dr. Niles furnishes the purchase price of this residence that the school so much needed as a rest house for the teachers and a home for Dr. Wong, after her long period of living with the children. At present the industrial group of women are housed in a house across the path from the school. This house belongs to the American Presbyterian Mission.

The income comes from as much as the parents can pay, (now very little), from gifts from friends in China, England, New Zealand, Australia, and the United States, from concerts, when we may have them, and from the interest from small endowments in China and in America. The fund in China was raised by Dr. S. W. Kwan from 1928-1933. For this and for all the other help Dr. Kwan has given Ming Sum, we are always grateful. The fund in America was given to Dr. Niles for the school by Mrs. Lucy Happer Glover whose

father, Dr. Happer was a pioneer in Presbyterian Mission work in Canton. The fund is held in trust by the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. in New York.

The two American women in the school at present are Miss Alice H. Schaefer and Miss Alice M. Carpenter. The salaries of the Americans in the school are always paid by the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church, which Board also furnishes the housing for the foreigners who work in the school. Both Miss Schaefer and Miss Carpenter are assigned by the Mission in Canton to part time work with seeing people in order to give contacts out-

side the school. Miss Schaefer's work is to be under the Church of Christ in China especially with young people, and Miss Carpenter will teach English to nurses in Hackett Medical Center, Canton.

From 1929-1935 Miss Edna M. Burkwall B.S., B.R.E. under the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. gave six years of service in Ming Sum School. Her methods in working out manual projects were very good. She read a great deal of music to the music teachers. She added to the natural history knowledge of those without sight as she used her skill and fine methods to bring the beauties of nature to those without sight.



*Miss Edna May Burkwall with a group of children whom she prepared for a Christmas Pageant 1934.*

The Board of Directors is a self-perpetuating body of four Christian Chinese and three members of the Presbyterian Mission in Canton. The members are nominated by the Board and elected by the Mission.

**Board of Directors 1939-1940.**

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Mrs. S. T. Law     | Mr. H. F. Thomson    |
| Mrs. J. S. Lowe    | Mrs. A. J. Fisher    |
| Mrs. K. H. Wu      | Miss Grace M. Rupert |
| Mrs. C. S. Wong    |                      |
| Dr. S. C. Wong     | (ex-officio member)  |
| Alice M. Carpenter | " "                  |

The Executive Committee of the School is chosen by the Board of Directors.

Executive Committee of Ming Sum School 1939-1940:—

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Miss Alice M. Carpenter, | Principal  |
| Dr. S. C. Wong,          | Associate Principal  |
| Miss Suet Kei Lei,       | Head Blind Teacher   |
| Miss Oi Tsing Maan,      | Industrial Supervisor  |
| Miss Alice H. Schaefer,  | In charge of the religious education program in the school.  |
|                          | Will later work out plans for seeing young people and the older boys and girls in Ming Sum to co-operate in programs for Christian social service. |

The Staff is at present made up of eight blind Chinese women teachers, four seeing Chinese women teachers, and two American women teachers. The salaries of the Chinese are paid from school funds, upon authorization of the Board of Directors. The Chinese blind teachers have all had training at Ming Sum School and then have gone to schools



for the seeing in Canton, Kong Chuen, Kong Moon, and Wuchow, so that they all have had normal training in schools for the seeing.

Staff for 1939-1940 and dates of entry into Ming Sum service.

* Dr. Suet Ching Wong . . .	1925
Miss Suet Kei Lei . . .	1917
* Miss Oi Tsing Maan . . .	1913
Miss Hon Faai Faan . . .	1913
Miss Suk Ching Cheung . .	1930
Miss In Ching Laai . . .	1934
Miss Foon Hing Leung . . .	1931
Miss Siu Wan Leung . . .	1936
Miss In Chan Uen . . .	1936
Miss Mung Yan Yau . . .	1938
* Miss Tak Fan Chan . . .	1932
* Miss Fung Kom Kwok . . .	1938
* Mrs. Yau Wa Siu Chui . .	1936
* Mrs. Cheung . . .	1921-1936

Again in 1939.

\* (Sighted)

From 1889-1939 there have come to Ming Sum

404 girls  
66 boys  
2 women for training in massage  
34 men for industrial work  
506

Most of these have been from Kwong Tung Province from rural districts.

Five boys and one girl have come from Kwong Sai Province

Two girls from Fukien Province

Two girls from Shanghai

1908-1939 graduated from elementary school



*Staff and Pupils of Ming Sum School for the Blind—1910.*

128 girls  
32 boys  
160

Out of this 160 all but one girl and two boys became Christians of their own free will. Of the remaining 346 who did not graduate, and remained for only a short time, 50 became Christians. With the blind in this Province, becoming Christians means freedom from the heavy bondage of fear.

### Distribution of Graduates

Women—128

Evangelistic work—in schools, hospitals, city and rural churches.....	27
Teachers in schools for the blind.....	21
Teachers in school for the seeing.....	9
Massage in hospitals .....	4
Housework .....	3
Industrial work .....	30
Married .....	19
At home .....	15
	<u>128</u>

It is more difficult to get in touch with the boys at this time when communication is difficult, as they have gone further away.

One boy is doing evangelistic work, five are teachers in schools for the blind and two are doing massage. Some of them are in their own villages doing what industrial work they can and some, much to our sorrow have gone to begging, even when work was provided for them. None of them have had to beg if they would show the right spirit and exert some effort.

Out of the 160 graduates, nine girls and three boys have died.



*Staff and Pupils of Ming Sum School for the Blind—1939.*

The causes of blindness are much the same as in any other country, though malnutrition as a primary cause is a great factor here. Out of the more than 500 we have had very few were born blind. This is a common story from children whose families are poor—"When I was four I had trouble with my eyes which resulted in blindness." With this meagre knowledge it is impossible to compile a statistical report on the cause of blindness here. Blindness after measles is the most common cause.

Eighteen boys and girls have received training in schools for the sighted after long, hard pioneering work on the part of Dr. Niles to get them admitted to those schools. There has been real friendliness and excellent cooperation from the New Zealand Presbyterian School in Kong Chuen near Canton, from the Canadian Presbyterian School in Kong Moon, from True Light Primary School, Lo Tak, and Union Normal School, Swedish American Bible School, all in Canton, and Wuchow Normal School in Wuchow, Kwong Sai.

The picture below is of the Graduating Class of Union Normal School in Canton in 1934. Miss Mung Yan Yau graduated with the seeing girls as eight Ming Sum girls had done before her.



Miss Yau—Middle row extreme right.

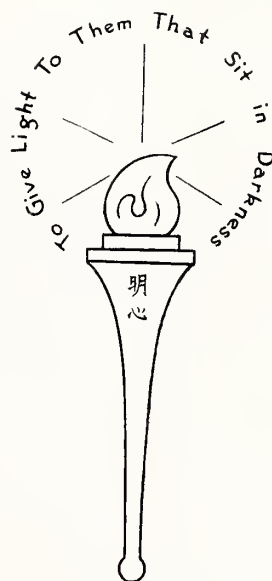
Ming Sum as Lighthouse No. 10.

In 1929 Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Mather visited us and were interested in our becoming a Light House. Mrs. Mather is founder of Light House No. 1 in New York City and has greatly helped us with her interest, advice and gifts.

After all of the formalities were nearly passed in preparation for our becoming one in the family of Light Houses, Mrs. Mather wrote this to us, January 1st, 1932.

"I agree with you that I can see no reason for your school not becoming a Light House as you not only prevent blindness and educate the blind but your after care and general missionary work for them and their friends as far as I know is pre-eminently characteristic of the Light-House spirit. My husband and I are delighted that your splendid work is about to become Light House No. 10."

The Board of Directors and the Executive Committee of the School changed the school colours from PURPLE and GOLD to RED and WHITE.



### The New School Seal

Many years ago Dr. Mary W. Niles and her associates chose as the school verse Philippians 2:5. In the Chinese translation it reads, "Let this HEART be in you which was also in Christ Jesus," thus emphasizing the idea of the UNDERSTANDING HEART which the words MING SUM mean.

Never before have we had a school seal. Miss Alice H. Schaefer designed this one, and on April 18, 1939 the Board of Directors of Ming Sum School designated it as the official seal of the school. Miss Schaefer presented the cut of the seal to the school.

"TO GIVE LIGHT TO THEM THAT SIT IN DARKNESS".

Such was the purpose in Dr. Niles's heart and mind; such is our purpose and so it will be as others take the torch from us.



TO GIVE LIGHT to understand the abundant life in Christ that begins here and now.

TO GIVE LIGHT to learn in spite of handicaps all that is the rightful heritage of everyone to know.

TO GIVE LIGHT as inspiration to use the acquired knowledge to go out to live joyously and abundantly with seeing people.

The character for UNDERSTANDING—MING 明 is composed of two distinct characters Yat 日 meaning Sun, and Yuet 月 meaning Moon, thus doubly emphasizing the idea of brightness, light, and understanding.

The character for HEART,—SUM 心 gives the ideograph of the heart with the three drops of life-giving blood.

明 心

The name Ming Sum was suggested for the school by Miss Harriet Noyes, founder of True Light School in Canton.

Reprinted from "The Torch"

Vol. 1 No. 1 May 15, 1939.

In answer to many questions we give these facts about the professional training of the American women on the staff of Ming Sum School for the Blind.

Miss Alice H. Schaefer came to Ming Sum School in September 1938 with excellent training and successful years of experience. She taught for six years in Public School No. 15, New York City after graduation from the New York Training School for Teachers. In 1923 she was appointed by the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. to work among the Cantonese in Bangkok, Siam. She was sent to Canton for a year's language study, during which time she lived at Ming Sum School. She then served for nine years as Principal of Loyal School for Cantonese in Bangkok. For six years after that she was in New York, studying and adding to her experience by speaking, working in churches, young peoples' conferences, spiritual life groups, and Daily Vacation Bible Schools. For two summers she was Principal of the Daily Vacation Bible School at West End Presbyterian Church, New York City.

While she was in the United States she received her B.R.E. and M.R.E. from The Biblical Seminary in New York.

For one semester 1937-1938 she lived at Perkins Institution and took the Harvard I Education of the Blind in Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Miss Alice M. Carpenter came to Canton in 1922 appointed by the Board of Foreign Mission of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. with teachers' training and graduation with B. A. from Hastings College, Hastings, Nebraska, and two years of experience of high school English teaching in Osceola, Nebraska. From 1922-1924 she studied Cantonese in the Canton Language School. From 1924-1927 she worked with Dr. Niles, Miss Chau and Miss Durham in Ming Sum School. In 1927-1928 on furlough an M. A. in English Literature and Language was earned from the University of Colorado. From 1929-1935 she served as co-principal of Ming Sum School with Dr. Suet Ching Wong. From 1925-1927, and then from 1928-1935 she taught English in Pooi Ying High School for boys as an outside contact, being assigned there by the Mission for ten hours work per week. In 1936-1937 she took the Harvard I, Education of the Blind course in Harvard Graduate School of Education under the internationally known leader in work for the blind, Dr. E. E. Allen and Miss Genevieve Haven. Also the Special Methods course added much help under Miss Jessica Langworthy, the beloved teacher in Perkins for so many years. She lived at Perkins Institution and during this period of study as is the custom of Perkins so that the Harvard course students may observe and teach as they study. She then taught for six months in the Deaf-Blind department of Perkins Institution. Upon her return to Canton in August of 1937 she was again elected, by the Board of Directors, co-Principal of Ming Sum School with Dr. Wong.

Many times we are asked, "why do you go to China and especially to work with the blind?" Miss Schaefer and I wish to state our reasons without vindication or argument. We both left very satisfying positions of teaching in the United States. We considered that work quite as interesting and important as any work in China could be. We came to Canton because we feel that, for the present, this is the place in the world God wants us to be. We long to keep in close touch with all of our American contacts as we work with our Chinese

friends, trying to share the best our homes, schools and churches have given us. We try to present Christ as He has been shown to us, as our Savior and as the One who motivates deep joyful living.

It is a joy to work with the youth of China, both with those with sight and with the ones who are visually handicapped. One could scarcely find more satisfaction than to watch darkened lives unfold and develop while they are at Ming Sum. To have the privilege of seeing young men and women with sight mingle with those who have none, with age-old barriers against the blind broken down, is a challenge and an uplift.

Here we gladly work with the Chinese around us in as many ways as possible. Our desire is that they think of us as friendly neighbors.

We are here at the invitation of our Chinese colleagues—not to force our foreign ways upon them, not to coerce in matters of religion but to adapt with them what is of best use here and to learn and grow as we work together.

In countless ways we experience this truth from Confucius: “when I walk with two people, at least one is my teacher”.

The Board of Directors voted approval for the publishing of this booklet to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Ming Sum School for the Blind. We all feel that we want to present this picture of the work of the years in spite of the expense that is involved. All of this year we have gone on as normally as possible and in line with that policy which has greatly helped our morale, we present this report now rather than wait for more favorable circumstances. We are hindered in showing many activities in not being able to get indoor pictures. Mr. F. A. Nixon, O.B.E. ex-Director of Posts in Canton, very kindly took many of the good pictures and we are most grateful to him for them. Some of the life of the school has been snapped by amateurs as we have seen it from day to day. We wish you could come for one day and see the beautiful garden, the happy normal life in the classrooms, the laundry, the kitchen as work goes on with play.

If there are any questions that arise from this report we shall be very glad to have you send them to us so that we may answer them in order to give a more adequate picture of the SCHOOL of the UNDERSTANDING HEART.





## FRIENDLY NEIGHBORS



*Our coal man and his family.*



*The owners of the piggery.*



*The sellers of pottery.*



*The custodians of the neighboring grounds.*



*Morning rice outside Ming Sum Gate.*

## Greetings From Our Friends

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It is a pleasure to send greetings to the Ming Sum School for the Blind on its 50th Anniversary. The school is doing a splendid work for the blind children of South China and is worthy of every support.

John Stapler,  
Captain, U. S. N.

\* \* \*

The Ming Sum School for the Blind which is now about to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of its founding was a pioneer in its field in this part of China. During these many years a large number of Chinese children rendered helpless by blindness have been given practical instruction and training, as a result of which they have been enabled to perform useful work and to enter into the life of their respective communities. I congratulate the Ming Sum School on completing a half century of social work of such importance and extend best wishes for its continued success.

M. S. Myers,  
Consul General,  
American Consulate General,  
Canton, China.

\* \* \*

Fifty years of unselfish service to others, years cheerfully given in order that happiness, a sense of usefulness, a real interest in life, may be the heritage of a few of the afflicted youth of China.

To visit your school is a rare privilege, to see these children in the joyous execution of their daily routine, a real inspiration. To those courageous women who have made this school possible through their years of devoted service, to those through whose contributions the work is able to be continued—greetings on this Fiftieth Anniversary of the founding of Ming Sum. May the light ever grow brighter and continue to shine through fifty times fifty years in these truly Understanding Hearts.

C. E. Coney,  
Commander, U. S. Navy,  
Commanding U.S.S. Mindanao, Flagship,  
United States Asiatic Fleet,  
South China Patrol,  
Canton, China.

It is good to have your letter regarding the 50th anniversary of the founding of Ming Sum School for the Blind. My own memory goes back over all but the first two years of the history of the school and I saw it in its blessed work in 1897 and again in later years. No one can see it or know the women who have carried it on since Dr. Mary Niles established it without a deep sense of sympathetic interest for those to whom it has ministered and a deep admiration for the love and devotion and skill of those who have rendered this most Christ-like ministry. It is a pleasure to send greetings and best wishes on this anniversary. What a different world this would be if the spirit embodied in the School were to be the spirit governing all the relations of men and nations.

Robert E. Speer, Ph. D.

Secretary Emeritus,

The Board of Foreign Missions of the  
Presbyterian Church in the United  
States of America,  
156 Fifth Avenue,  
New York.

\* \* \*

During the fifty years of this school's history I have had very close relationship with Ming Sum. I have appreciated the invitation to be a member of the Board of Directors but at the same time I realize that I have been able to contribute very little. It has been a pleasure to see the school grow and develop each year. Many of the students after graduation from Ming Sum School have served society, others have become independent and self-supporting members of society. Many seeing people are not as skillful as these graduates. It is true to say that the blind are not really blind, only those who have blind hearts are really blind.

Ming Sum School has accomplished so much because of the many missionaries and other Christian teachers. During recent years the school has received more help and recognition from the general public. The Staff has been so diligent in their work for Ming Sum School that today after all these years of nurture and training the students show that they have had many special advantages. This is not ordinary work but is the result of specialized training and effort.



On this Fiftieth Birthday as I look over the years and remember how hopeless and difficult the life of a blind girl was and now how happy and useful these girls are, it is like heaven in comparison to their former plight.

I can remember all the difficulties of the founder in those early days, her faith, great patience and continual love that found a way to solve each problem. As I think of the future my hope for the school and the students is that their usefulness and this unique work will continue to grow and develop.

Mrs. Law Lau Sam Tsz,

For many years Chairman, of the  
Ming Sum Board of Directors.

(For more than sixty years associated with True Light Primary School and for many years on the Executive Staff of the Church of Christ in China.)

\* \* \*

Greetings to the Ming Sum School. To all of the members of the staff, and to the boys and girls of the school, may I convey the cordial Christian felicitations of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, as you commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of Ming Sum School for the Blind.

The school, by its invaluable ministry to a large company of boys and girls, the windows of whose lives have been darkened, has performed a service that must be very near to the heart of our Master. He was always a kind friend and a healing physician to the blind, and you are continuing that ministry in His name and in His spirit.

In these days when forces of evil and hate divide mankind and destroy so many of life's treasures, may your school, by its steadfast and faithful service, bear clear witness to the supremacy of Christian love. Such love never faileth.

Lloyd S. Ruland, D. D.,  
Secretary for China,  
The Board of Foreign  
Missions of the Presbyterian  
Church in the U.S.A.  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York.

Heartiest greetings and sincere congratulations upon the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of Ming Sum. One feels a thrill of gratitude to God in realizing that through the vicissitudes of half a century Ming Sum has been able to carry on its continuous ministry of love to the blind. Its history reminds us how greatly God can bless an enterprise that is in the hands of those who are rich in faith even though their material resources may be small.

Ming Sum has been created and sustained by a succession of devoted workers each of whom has made a distinctive contribution to the sum total of its achievement. This anniversary in a peculiar sense brings back memories of its honored Founder who wrought so well. It also reminds us of those who are now responsible for its administration and are dealing with its current problems. Ming Sum is indeed an achievement in co-operation of those who have devoted their lives to its cause.

A review of Ming Sum's past history reveals foundations solidly laid. The School has met well the demands of the past years. Its friends and well-wishers rejoice in that record. "The past is secure".

In the on-going life of an institution worthy of survival it is the future that commands the greatest attention. In a real sense "the past is but prologue". The greatest service is still to be rendered in the future—the unpredictable future. As Ming Sum advances into that future it carries with it the hopes and prayers of its friends. May you who direct its policies and teach in its class-rooms have a sense of an unseen Presence sustaining you always.

E. E. Walline D. D.,  
Vice-Chairman of China Council,  
American Presbyterian Mission,  
Shanghai.

\* \* \*

On this occasion of the Fiftieth anniversary of the Founding of the School for the Blind, the Synod would like to join the chorus of appreciation for the work that this School has done throughout the last Fifty years. It has been a much needed work and thousands of people have come to appreciate the value of it. Speaking of the School from the point of view of the Church, we feel that it is one of the greatest assets that the Christian cause has. It is a humanitarian service that can be pointed to as a practical demonstration of Christian love.

We sincerely hope that the School, under this splendid administration, will continue to grow in usefulness and in service for the Christian cause.

A. J. Fisher, D.D.,  
Executive Secretary,  
Church of Christ in China,  
Kwangtung Synod,  
Hong Kong.

\* \* \*

Ming Sum, through the years you have presented a convincing demonstration of the principles of Christianity; convincing to the non-Christian, inspiring to the Christian. In these latter years you have led an increasing number of us sighted out of a separative, heart-catching sympathy in which pathos predominated, into a natural, unemotional appreciation of the blind as contributing members of society. On this your gala day, we salute you!

Gertrude Hill,  
Secretary,  
American Presbyterian Mission,  
Hackett Medical Center,  
Canton.

\* \* \*

It hardly seems fifty years ago that as a very small boy I watched the beginning of Ming Sum School. We lived next door to the Canton Hospital where Dr. Mary Niles was stationed during her early years after her arrival in Canton. Little did anyone think, as in the kindness of that great heart of hers, Dr. Niles began to gather the little blind girls around her, that one of the outstanding Christian philanthropic work in South China, was being started. To few people is it given to have such a wonderful monument. It is not often that the creative power of vision, love and persistence is so manifest.

It is a satisfaction to all the friends of Ming Sum that since Dr. Niles has gone to her reward, the management and direction of Ming Sum have been in such competent and consecrated hands as those of the present staff.

James M. Henry, D.D.,  
Provost, Lingnan University,  
Canton, China.

When one must suffer the fate of blindness, what a wonderful freedom and enlightenment is attained through systematic teaching, such as has been given at Ming Sum School for the Blind. It is inspiring to imagine the gratitude and spiritual energy piled up through the activity and successful work of this school in half a century of loving devotion. And may this devotion continue to be transformed into blessings for the Ming Sum School.

Johann Heinrich F. Otto, M.D.,  
Red Cross Hospital,  
Honam, Canton, China.

\* \* \*

How wonderful it seems that as long as fifty years ago Dr. Mary West Niles should have had the inspiration to start such a school and that the inspiration has not lost its impetus but has continued through half a century!

We all send you best wishes for continued success.

Mrs. Winifred Hathaway,  
Associate Director,

National Society for the Prevention  
of Blindness,  
50, West 50th Street,  
New York.

\* \* \*

Yours is one of the most unusual and remarkable and sacrificial enterprises of which I know. When I was there a few years ago, I was especially pleased at the very practical work you were doing among those most unfortunate children. The incident which happened at that time, of a blind Chinese girl who seemed tremendously helped through hearing the record of The OLD RUGGED CROSS, has been a great inspiration to me ever since. I believe your program of music is especially desirable for these youngsters who have been deprived of their sight. If there could be any kind of compensation it would be through the development of a love for music, so I congratulate you on the work you are doing.

Homer A. Rodeheaver.



My very special greetings go to Ming Sum in this anniversary year. I have watched the growth and development of the school during forty three of its fifty years, and rejoice in the accomplishments of these years.

The light kindled by the glowing faith and devotion of its founder has been worthily fostered and shed abroad by those who have followed. May Ming Sum long continue to hold high the torch and to throw far the light in these dark and troubled times !

Edmonia Sale Marshall (Mrs. G. W.),  
American Presbyterian Mission,  
now in U.S.A.

\* \* \*

When I arrived in 1897, Ming Sum was already eight years old in the first building at Kuk Fau, with our beloved Dr. Mary Niles happy and hopefully working with about twenty pupils.

They say "None are so blind as those who will not see." I know most of the pupils, laughing till they fell over, willed to see that dog "cussing" match we staged at the school one afternoon. If the teachers and all, even down to the dog, are always as earnest as on that day, I am sure everybody at Ming Sum will see very clearly. Ming Sum is certainly the most entertaining and brightest school I have visited. May your heart light penetrate farther and farther, for China needs that sort of light.

A New Day is coming for China. This day will be a dawn of love and regard for fellow men. That the growth of Ming Sum will equal if not surpass those early efforts is to be expected. Ming Sum the pioneer in light for the heart will come into its own with eyes that see deeply and hearts that will carry The Day in ever expanding radiance, the light of the Christ.

W. H. Dobson, M. D.,  
American Presbyterian Mission,  
Yeung Kong,  
South China.

\* \* \*

"Fifty years ! Fifty years of service, such as was included in Christ's "Inasmuch", given to God at compound interest ! The result will be made known on the Great Accounting Day.

Ming Sum has not only laid up much treasure in Heaven during those years but has the present supreme satisfaction of having brought a light, far transcending any material brightness, to many doubly darkened lives, replacing mere existence with a radiant will to live.

Wm. Darby,  
Brigadier,  
General Secretary,  
The Salvation Army,  
Canton, China.

\* \* \*

It is a great pleasure to offer my congratulations to the Ming Sum School for the Blind on its 50th. Anniversary

I have enjoyed more than one visit to this institution, and have seen some of the results of the teaching and training of blind children there. It is impossible to see these obviously happy children with their work, their singing, and their play, without being deeply moved, and feeling the greatest admiration for an organization which makes useful happy citizens of children whose position otherwise would be without hope. May this great work long continue.

R. L. Lancaster, M. D.,  
Shameen,  
Vice-Chairman of Canton  
International Committee of  
Red Cross Society of Canton.

\* \* \*

As I come to the close of my first term of service for Christ in China, it is a joy and a privilege to be able to write you a few words upon the occasion of your Fiftieth Anniversary, and to tell you that Ming Sum has been an inspiration to me as well as a revelation of God's love and power.

Through you He has taught me that His love reaches, fills and changes the lives of those who sit in physical darkness, and more—that He does this through those devoted souls who give their lives in the service of their blind sisters and brothers. This is love and life abundant.

But to me Ming Sum has brought a special blessing through song. Six years ago when I first heard the Ming Sum songsters I was amazed at the wondrous beauty of their singing. Today when I

hear your songs and hymns they bring a deep peace and contentment to my heart. As a pastor of the Church of Christ in China I have had the opportunity of working in places where Ming Sum graduates have gone out to help in church work and specially by leading the congregations in the musical part of their worship. In country towns and villages, as well as in Canton city, I have seen these girls at work and have been filled with admiration at what they have been doing.

In one church in Canton, the Ming Sum graduate has trained a choir of young people who perform with precision, harmony and a degree of finish such as I have not seen or heard in all the churches I visit in city and country. That is an achievement of which Ming Sum may well be proud, because the music side of worship in these churches often presents great difficulties.

Circumstances brought me to live at Ming Sum during the Refugee Camp days when you yourselves were taking refuge in boats on the river. They were strenuous days and I like to feel that the hundreds of refugees who lived here then were in some way taking in the spirit of love, patience and joy which has been the atmosphere of Ming Sum these fifty years. Your buildings are truly hallowed in the service of Christ the Light of the world.

The song from your lips means a song in your hearts, and such joy has only one source—our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

In His name I give you greeting and pray that the years ahead may be even fuller of progress than have the past, and still richer in love and service for Him.

Yours in the Light of His Love,  
Hedley P. Bunton,  
London Missionary Society,  
Canton, China.

\* \* \*

On the happy occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the founding of Ming Sum, please accept our heartfelt congratulations.

Ming Sum School is a splendid monument to the far-reaching vision and sacrificial labors of the late Dr. Mary Niles, its prophetic founder. It is also one of the best and most eloquent examples of what Christian love is capable of rendering to humanity in general and to China in

particular. To say that the Chinese take pride in Ming Sum accomplishments and are grateful for its invaluable services, is to be trite, were it not that it is unmistakably true and whole-heartedly unanimous. May this great occasion engender a quickening of life and a deepening of courage and love to carry forward the good work so well begun by Dr. Mary Niles.

S. W. Kwan, M.D.,  
Former Dean, Hackett Medical College,  
Canton, China.

Y. C. Kwan,  
Chairman, Executive  
Council of the Church of Christ  
in China, Hong Kong.

\* \* \*

It is indeed a pleasure to us who have had the privilege of knowing the work of "Ming Sum" for nearly forty years, to add our testimony to that of many others. We knew, loved and greatly admired it's founder, and have watched the marvelous growth and usefulness of the institution during all these past many years.

We wish to send Ming Sum our heartfelt best wishes, and congratulate it and it's efficient management on this year of their Fiftieth Anniversary.

Charles A., M.D. and Alice J. Hayes, M.E.,  
South China Mission of the Southern  
Baptist Convention U.S.A.  
Canton, China.

\* \* \*

For 15 years a graduate of the Ming Sum and the Union Normal School has been teaching in a mission boarding school at Kong Chuen. There are two facts that prove to me that education has in her case been successful. She is never satisfied with present attainments—is ever eager to learn something new. Lately she has learnt some new songs from a young teacher, who some years back was her own pupil.

She has too a sense of gratitude to God and man for the opportunities that have come to her. I can see her as she stood one day before a group of students and told them that her favourite verse in the Bible was 1 Cor. 1: 26, 27 "God hath chosen the foolish things . . . the weak things . . . the



things that are despised." She realizes the wonder of it. God gave to the founders of the Ming Sum and to those who have followed seeing eyes and hearts and through them hope and happiness and ability to serve others have come to many and we who have seen it rejoice.

Frances G. Ogilvie,  
New Zealand Presbyterian  
Mission,  
Principal of Shung Kei Bible School,  
Canton.  
(temporarily in Sha Tin—Hong Kong.

\* \* \*

Congratulations to Ming Sum! The school is well named for it has shown an Understanding Heart to China for fifty years. It has brought blessings to Chinese blind girls who were considered the lowest of any class.

To both girls and boys it has given a chance to lead a useful life and a blind person no longer needs to be ashamed that he is blind. The Chinese people thank Ming Sum for her love and care.

Yuk Yi Leung, M. D.  
Formerly of Hackett Medical,  
Center, Canton.

\* \* \*

O hail, Ming Sum, thou bright-hearted tree of hope and blessing. On this glad day, fraught with memories and expectations, it is our high privilege to bring to thee a loving greeting and to pay the debt of thanks we owe to thee for thy fifty years of service and for the beauty of thy life. Thou wast born of love in the heart of a child of God and wast faithfully reared in the sunshine and dew of God's unfailing grace, until today thou standest before us in all the strength and nobleness of thy maturity. Thy roots have pierced deep into the needs of this ancient land, while thy head is ever striving to rise higher and closer to the clear light of heavenly truth. Thy branches stretch afar with ever-widening scope, and thy fruitage, the expression and continuation of thy life, is ripening in the hearts and lives of those whom thou hast lifted into the light. Thou hast brought hope where there was nought but despair. Thou hast brought freedom to those who long sat in bondage. Thou hast brought glorious vision of mind and heart to those who saw nothing but darkness. This is thy service and thy high achievement during this half century of thy growth, but thy mission

is not yet finished. The divine life within thee cannot rest, cannot be satisfied except in continued growth, wider reaches, higher attainments. We pledge our loyalty to thee, O Ming Sum, and pray Almighty God to shed His grace on thee throughout the unfolding years. May thy life be rich and thy fruit abundant that thou mayest be an ever-increasing blessing to China and a joy to the heart of the Master of the vineyard.

Sun Laap School for the Blind,  
Shiu Hing, South China.  
through Mrs. Mary G. Burt.

Mrs. Burt is herself blind—a graduate of Perkins Institution, Wellesley and Columbia University. She works valiantly, cheerfully and heroically, administering the Sun Laap School for the Blind, Shiu Hing South China.

\* \* \*

Good neighbours are such a wonderful help in a landscape! I like to think of Ming Sum beyond the green pasture that joins our two places, yours and ours. People who do not know might think we have a sad lot, both our groups—care for the lightless in body at Ming Sum and care for the lightless in mind at Wai Oi; but oh! such brightness shines in our heart-garden!

From one of the Sisters of the  
Missionary Sisters of The Immaculate  
Conception, Montreal, Canada.

(Since October 20, 1938 some of the Sister of the Immaculate Conception have been in charge of the very difficult task of administering the Hospital for the Insane near Ming Sum. The association with them has been most helpful and pleasant as we have been neighbors through these strange days.)

\* \* \*

On the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the founding of the "Ming Sum" School for the Blind we wish to take this opportunity to congratulate you for the great service rendered in giving light to the blind. Your contributions are unique and your sister schools respect you. May the courage and achievement of your founder, Dr. Mary Niles and her successors continue to grow and afford even greater cause for congratulations.

Yau Tsit Law,  
Principal.  
Chan Chung Middle School.  
(True Light Branch School.)

Looking back on fifty glorious years in the life of Ming Sum, we know that the Light has illumined not only the lives of those who have studied in this school, but has shone into darkness still worse than that of sightless eyes.

It is no mere coincidence that in the expressions of those one meets at Ming Sum there is an uplift that is different.

"The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; and they that dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, on them hath the light shined."

Mary W. Bischoff R.N.,  
Hackett Medical Center,  
Canton, China.

\* \* \*

Before leaving New Zealand for China we had heard from the Rev. Alex. Don of the devoted labors of Dr. Mary Niles and the sweet singing of the Ming Sum girls. After making our home at Fong Chuen it was a joy to have them join us as next-door neighbors, first in matsheds and later in the fine buildings which were put up under the personal supervision of Dr. Niles and Miss Lucy Durham. We shared in their thanksgiving when an Anglican friend from New Zealand became so interested in the good work that he gave money to extend its advantages to boys.

A Ming Sum girl has been teaching in one of our Mission schools for many years and has made such a place for herself that everybody looks on her as part of the Institution.

We thank God for Ming Sum and its fifty years of Christ-like ministry.

G. H. and M. McNeur,  
New Zealand Prebyterian Mission,  
Kong Chuen,  
South China.

\* \* \*

Fifty years you say, and I have seen thirty of them pass by. First in True Light Girls School, then, in a building on Yan Tsai Street, and then moved over to the present site in 1907.

In these years I have watched Dr. Mary W. Niles, Miss Lucy Durham, Miss Chau and Dr. Wong and marvelled at the patience of those devoted women. For truly it has taken infinite patience to teach those who cannot see. Each move gave the children more room and greater

freedom. To watch their happy faces at work and play, always fills me with surprise and wonder at the patience that has gone into every step of the way.

I recall taking a friend one evening to the school. It was time for a sing. They sang Annie Laurie with voices so sweet and true. My friend was Scotch, so was I, and we were stirred to the depths.

The part that our Women's International Club had in making it possible for the children to go to the sea-shore last year and how it came about is a story which shows how the Lord leads in odd ways!

On last Saturday, it gave me added pleasure to have the Club make the first contribution towards the Mary Niles Camp. It is my hope and prayer that the fund will grow, so that Mary Niles Camp will be a blessing to many in the years to come.

Margaret S. Todd (Mrs. P. J.)

The Todd Clinic and Hospital,  
Canton, China.

\* \* \*

May my husband and I offer our warmest congratulations to you, your staff, and your students, past and present, on this happy occasion of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Ming Sum School for the Blind.

That it has grown, despite all adversities, from such a small beginning into the splendid school it is to-day, is a wonderful tribute not only to the courage and faith of its founder Dr. Niles, but also to the understanding and devotion to her ideals shown by the present staff. How many times must that devotion have been repayed by those fortunate students who have been transformed, through the school's efforts, from sadly handicapped and pathetic creatures into useful busy members of society. And how far must the influence of Ming Sum have spread during these fifty years, as its students have gone out and shown fellow blind the way to happiness and usefulness.

We can only wish for you that Ming Sum may flourish in the next fifty years as it has done in the past, and that its members may always have the wonderful qualities that will enable them to give contributory service.

Catherine Baker-Carr (Mrs. d'A.),  
8 British Concession,  
Shameen,  
Canton, China.



"If therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light." This year in the Paak Hok Tung Refugee Camp, I have been associated with the Rev. Calvin Lee. Even the children of the camp have become so interested in the Bible that they collect with real enthusiasm the different books of the Bible in portions. I asked Mr. Lee how he became interested in Christianity. He said that his sister became blind when only a child. A relative had heard of Dr. Niles and her work for the Blind and so his sister was taken there. At Ming Sum School for the Blind she became a Christian and is now one of the most valued faculty members. It was she who interested friends in her little brother and he became a Christian and was even sent to America to continue his education. Now he is doing one of the most interesting pieces of evangelistic work that I have ever seen. "If therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light."

Eleanor Logan Thomson (Mrs. H. F.),  
American Presbyterian Mission,  
Paak Hok Tung,  
Canton, China.

\* \* \*

Pui Ying congratulates the "School of the Understanding Heart" for a work of joy and light given to the "visually handicapped" as you have started them toward a rich and happy living. One of our blessings is the pleasant co-operation that has existed between the two schools. Miss Carpenter's teaching work in the Senior classes has been especially valuable. Boys still express thanks for the impetus into the study of English she has inspired. We give thanks for, and heartily congratulate our good neighbor across the Fati Creek for their "fifty glorious years."

Kai Tso Lau,  
Principal, Pui Ying Middle School,  
Hong Kong.

\* \* \*

Personally, as well as on behalf of the United Brethren Mission, permit us to congratulate you sincerely and heartily on the occasion of the FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY of the MING SUM SCHOOL. As one of the **pioneering** missionary institutions in South China, Ming Sum has done a unique work. Because of it, how many young Chinese women and men "that walked in

darkness have seen a Great Light"! We appreciate deeply the way you are carrying forward to-day under extraordinary difficulties the work of the Institution, not only conserving the great traditions of the past but also discovering new resources and adjustments in a time of crisis such as inspire hope and confidence in its further growth and its still more conspicuous service. To this end we bespeak for Ming Sum that measure of support from all who are privileged to know of its aims and methods, which will translate this hope and confidence into abiding reality.

Charles W. Shoop and Kathryn S. Shoop,  
The China Mission of  
The United Brethren in Christ,  
Canton, China.

\* \* \*

Let me thank you for the hours and days and months of work you sightless young ladies spent in knitting hundreds of warm sweaters for our refugees whose winter was made more happy because of your labor of love.

Your sweet voiced song welled out upon many an occasion and made for gladness, joy, happiness. Though your sight has been taken from you, you have the ability to smile and sing and spread sunshine in the paths of others. Your hymns of praise to God from Whom all blessings flow have cheered and elevated us.

Many millions of your Chinese compatriots have good bodily eyes but "seeing they see not" because they do not understand the things that are really worth while. You know Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, and know Him so intimately in those hearts of yours that you are called "Ming Sum" girls of the bright heart. Your hearts are clear, your minds are active, your souls are alive with the love of Jesus which you spread by those musical voices of yours.

For half a century "Ming Sum" School has brightened the hearts of sightless hundreds whose eyes were closed to the magnificence of this wide and beautiful world: the sun and sky, the moon and stars, the birds and bees, the green-clad trees, the rivers and streams, the boats and water-life, all these were shut out of your vision. But your darkness became bright by "Ming Sum" school which by clearing the vision

of your souls and teaching you to know and to love and to serve God and by instructing you how to become useful blind citizens of your great country, by such action did "Ming Sum" School endear itself in the hearts of many hundreds of blind people and to other seeing thousands who are proud of a work that is well done.

Father R. J. Cairns, M. M.,  
Maryknoll Missioner,  
Pastor of Sancian Island.

Since November 23rd 1938, on the Canton Refugee Committee : now a member of the Executive Committee of the Canton International Red Cross and Acting Secretary of Canton Areas Refugee Committee.

\* \* \*

### **Fifty Years of Growth !**

Growth of an Ideal into a reality for the development of those handicapped through no fault of their own.

Growth of a School, with all its difficulties in determining its scope and curriculum.

Growth of new Attitudes, on the part of those in Ming Sum and those who watched her; the gradual change toward the conception that the sighted have no greater place in the scheme of this world than those who can not see.

Growth of Souls, both of those taught and those instructing, in the knowledge of God and His world. With this was the growth of the will to follow Our Lord in His plan for each individual.

Growth of the Kingdom of God on earth, as seen in the works of service done through those who live in Ming Sum, one of the greatest of which is their joyous and willing service of song.

I feel it a great privilege indeed to have been allowed by the grace of God to have had a small part in this big enterprise.

My hope and prayer is that the growth of these fifty years will be only the foreshadowing of greater growth. May God's richest blessing continue with Ming Sum and may the next half century be a still richer harvest and further planting of new seed by those who have brought forth

fruit in this first harvest. We who love Ming Sum will always have her on our hearts for what she has given to us for the growth of our souls.

Edna May Burkwall,  
Hackett Medical Center,  
Canton, China.

\* \* \*

To our friends at Ming Sum on this semi-centennial occasion we wish to send our congratulations and our hearty thanks. The School has been, as the years have passed, more and more a source of inspiration. Through its music, the beautiful chorus work and all the wonder of it; through its training of head, heart, and hand; through its efforts to make the students normal, cheerful, and independent; through its beautiful spirit of love, sympathy, and understanding, it has come to stand out in our thinking as one of the best examples of practical Christian service. May it continue in its Christ-like work through the years to come, a light shining in a dark place.

W. E. MacDonald,  
Lingnan University,  
Canton, China.

\* \* \*

Ming Sum is always associated in my mind with music and joy.

We have lovely memories of the concerts at Ming Sum, participated in by Canton friends, to whom, however, the crowning experience was the hearing of the blind girls themselves sing. We have marvelled at the wonderful harmony of the Christmas carols, with the almost uncanny trueness of pitch and accuracy of rhythm, and unusual sweetness of the voices. We have enjoyed the Christmas plays with all the stage setting and costumes in color, prepared by the girls themselves. We have seen their happy faces enjoying the flowers in the garden which they "see" with their fingers, and the playground with its equipment, such as seeing children use, but so carefully planned that they can with confidence abandon themselves to its adventurous experiences. And more recently we learn of their joys at the sea-shore and hear their musical contributions to some of our refugee meetings.



So the School for the Blind has been a place of gladness and melody, of radiant and creative living, of eagerness to participate in normal activities and to be of service. Thus have been expressed the principles on which Dr. Mary Niles founded the school, and which are ever seeking new expression to help the blind to be normal, self-forgetful helpful members of the communities in which they live, with a wealth of resources and experiences for busy happy living.

Mabel D. McDonald (Mrs. W. E.),  
Lingnan University,  
Canton, China.

\* \* \*

A long time ago our family once lived for three years in a house overlooking Ming Sum School. When we first moved there, we felt a certain dread of daily seeing the plight of these blind children. To our great relief we found reason to rejoice instead of to sorrow. Never have we seen a happier school group than Ming Sum. And so it continues to this day. So truly have its teachers devoted their lives in loving service that this fine Christian environment for the blind has been attained. Our mission rejoices to see the blessing of God upon this school which Dr. Niles established and where she and Miss Durham, Miss Carpenter, Miss Burkwall, and Miss Schaefer have joined the Chinese staff in bringing the light of Christ's love into darkened hearts.

Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Fuson,  
American Presbyterian Mission,  
Linhien, Tung, China.

\* \* \*

When I think of Ming Sum I see in my mind's eye a group who, consciously or unconsciously, make it their task to spread cheer. In 1938 Miss Lorna Logan and I visited Ming Sum during the Chinese New Year season. Vividly in my memory are the roar of bombing planes overhead and the cheery songs of the students during their morning devotions, reminding us of love of our Maker.

During the Christmas season everyone was burdened with problems: housing of refugees, sanitation, prevention of the spread of epidemics, reopening of hospitals to accommodate refugee children suffering from measles, chicken pox and malaria. Again it was the Ming Sum group who came to bring cheer. In the refugee camps, to the boat people on the river and to the sick in the hospitals they sang, proclaiming Christ **had** come to bring peace on earth and goodwill to man.

Not only as a group do they spread cheer but also as individuals. During the trying time at the beginning of the occupation it was Lau Kwai Chi, the blind girl who washes dishes at Hackett Medical Center, going about her work in the kitchen, quiet, content, her face serene and peaceful, who gave us at Hackett courage to face the problems of the day.

Rena D. Westra, R. N.,  
Hackett Medical Center,  
Canton.

\* \* \*

"In the year 1889 a little waif of three years was picked up from an ash heap and brought to the Canton Hospital for healing. When the rescuer found that the child was helplessly blind, she was ready to return her to the ash heap, but Dr. Niles said, 'you may leave her with me', and the school for the Blind was begun"!

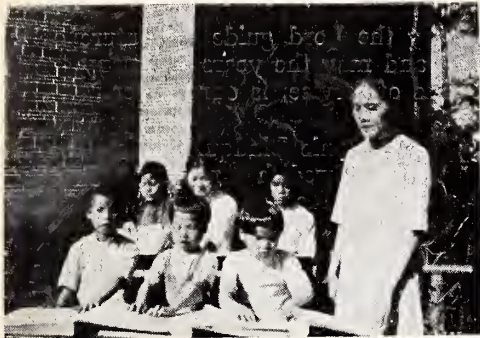
Dr. Niles was on the staff of the Canton Hospital and in charge of the midwifery department, but her heart was so touched by the plight of the blind that she began to devote the rest of her life to their cause.

Now the staff of Canton Hospital extend their most cordial greetings to Ming Sum and all its devoted workers in this jubilee year of their labor of love.

Wm. W. Cadbury, M.D.,  
Superintendent,  
Canton Hospital  
Canton, China.

The Berlin Mission Blind Girls' School (Kukong), founded 1907, wishes to extend its heartiest greetings and congratulations to the "Older-sister" institution, the Ming Sum School for the Blind in Sheung Fong Tsuen, Canton. God's blessing has rested on the work done in the well known institution. May it continue to prosper and to be a blessing to the blind in China.

In the name of the Shiuchow blind,  
Mrs. Lotti Kohls,  
Berlin Mission,  
Canton, China.



*Berlin Mission Blind Girls School, Kukong,  
South China.*

\* \* \*

It is with a great deal of pleasure that we take this opportunity to congratulate Ming Sum on its 50th. birthday. As a person who on more than one occasion has been an appreciative guest within your friendly walls, we have had the privilege of close contact with you and had the opportunity to observe the many ways in which you who now enjoy the benefits of Ming Sum are carrying out its traditions and are bearing the torch which your sainted founder lighted 50 years ago.

It will be a pleasure to share with you in spirit if we cannot be there in person, the happiness on this great occasion. By the beautiful songs on your lips, the smiles on and light in your faces you can give expression to what we are sure is in your hearts and that is thankfulness to God for His good gifts to you all. Thankfulness for Ming Sum and what it stands for and thankfulness to Him for your founder and her perseverance which made possible Ming Sum. Thankfulness also for your staff of devoted teachers and thankfulness too, for your numerous friends who occasionally give of their bounty that you may be happier but in so doing they themselves, are the more richly blessed.

In closing this word of greeting may we thank you for your hospitality to us on those happy occasions when we were in your midst and thank you for your inspiration to us for it is an inspiration to see you at work and at play. Again Ming Sum, congratulations from another of your numerous friends,

H. V. Bradshaw, M. D.,  
Van Norden Hospital,  
American Presbyterian Mission,  
Linchow (Linshien),  
Kwangtung China.

Congratulations for the long looked forward to Big Birthday. The joys in your hearts and the melody in your voices bring cheer to all of us. We think of you always.

Wilda Bradshaw (Mrs. H. V.),  
Van Norden Hospital,  
American Presbyterian Mission,  
Linchow (Linshien) China.

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In a small country town there is a church with a day school attached to it. Living on the premises is a young woman who was trained at Ming Sum School. For all services Yee Koo plays the hymns, and it is she who teaches singing and knitting. Indeed, during much of her so called leisure, her hands are busy, for everyone brings her wool to make into good looking and useful garments. Because of Ming Sum's training, Yee Koo, instead of being a burden to others, is one upon whom much depends.

Long may Ming Sum continue to help folks to help others!

Dorothy J. Purry,  
English Methodist Mission,  
Shameen, Canton, China.

\* \* \*

When one thinks of the School of the Understanding Heart and its Fiftieth Anniversary, there flashes into mind the words, "Let there be light and there was light." Fifty years of light to minds darkened by sorrow and neglect, fifty years of teaching and love, fifty years of giving so that today hearts are gay and faces happy. The beautiful music at Ming Sum is appreciated not only by the pupils, but also by all the friends who have had the privilege of being present at their concerts and music festivals.



For all the teachers and pupils of Ming Sum, I wish progress and achievement for all the future.

Agnete N. Yansen,  
Tak Kei Girls' School,  
New Zealand Presbyterian Mission,  
Macao.

\* \* \*

When the Lord Jesus was asked concerning a certain blind man who had thus been born, "Who did sin, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?", Jesus answered: "Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents; but that the works of God should be made manifest in him." Such a beautiful work of God is the Ming Sum School for the Blind.

I shall never forget a certain blind Biblewoman who was working for the Master among the poor boat people in Canton when I arrived in China sixteen years ago. I can still see her sitting beside the boat women, teaching them to read the Scriptures. She with her large Braille Bible and the women with their Chinese character Bibles, the blind teaching the seeing how to read! Few Bible women knew the Scriptures as she did. That certainly was the works of God made manifest.

In behalf of the South China Boat Mission I want to congratulate the School on this their Fiftieth Anniversary. May the Lord continue to greatly bless that wonderful work in preparing the blind for useful service.

E. W. Raetz,  
South China Boat Mission,  
Canton, China.

\* \* \*

I have two reasons for expressing my gratitude for Ming Sum School. As a Chinese I am grateful that such an institution should have been established and that it has prepared so many of our blind girls for a useful life. I wish to say also that Ming Sum graduates have come to the Union Normal School for further training. We have found them well-trained and capable of becoming successful teachers. One of them taught in the Primary Department of the Union Normal School after her graduation from the teacher training department of our school.

(Miss) Fung Ling Lou,  
Principal of Union Normal School,  
Macao.

This is to greet you on this special occasion, and to register our wish that Ming Sum may continue in her great work for the many who find far more than a refuge within her walls.

Nearly sixteen years ago we became acquainted with the inside of this well known institution. More recently we have accepted several students into the Canton Bible Institute, who had received their previous training at Ming Sum, and without exception have found them among our best students. Their good foundation in music has always been a joy to us.

May the Lord guide the future of this school and may the years see many trained for lives of service, is our prayer.

Annie Lindquist (Mrs. A. J.),  
Swedish American Mission,  
Honam, Canton, China.

\* \* \*

Hearty congratulations to Ming Sum on this great occasion of your fiftieth anniversary!

Twenty four years ago it was my happy privilege to live at Ming Sum and to make friends among the faculty and students. At first I feared it would be a depressing experience to be in the midst of so many afflicted ones, but gradually I ceased to think of them as blind and helpless, but as ordinary people, in spite of their handicaps. The more I saw of them, in classes and work rooms, the more I realized that they possessed the Understanding Heart. Their joy and ability in singing will ever be an inspiration to me. I shall always be grateful for the months spent there and for the lessons they taught me. May Ming Sum continue to hold the TORCH, radiating the True Light of Christ!

Florence Pike,  
American Presbyterian Mission,  
Yeung Kong,  
South China.

\* \* \*

Mr. Brownell and I send our heartfelt congratulations to Ming Sum on her fifty years of constant growth and steady out-giving of light. Surely your heart may rejoice in the large fulfilment of Dr. Niles' prayers and visions for Ming Sum's hundreds

of little blind children, women and men, as you see them achieving a healthy, happy outlook on life, expressing their soul in sweet songs, fearlessly changing their place of abode in time of danger, leading seeing-folk by the hand in the darkness of "black-outs", and daily triumphing in Spiritual power over all physical disabilities.

May the Light of Ming Sum continue to illumine the hearts of many more sightless people and be radiated to their friends in South China.

Jane M. Brownell (Mrs. H. C.),  
Lingnan University,  
Canton, China.

\* \* \*

Greetings to the eminent School of the Understanding Heart on your Fiftieth Anniversary! You have brought light into darkened lives, following the light of Christ. You have given opportunities for the blind to be happy and independent, able to go out into the world to help themselves, to help the world and other people in it. Congratulations to you on the road you have taken, and may you always be a blessing to the blind in China.

Fung Hiu Kwok, R.N.,  
Assistant Superintendent of Nurses,  
Hackett Medical Center,  
Canton, China.

\* \* \*

It gives me great pleasure as the representative of the Church Missionary Society in Canton to offer the Ming Sum School for the Blind our most sincere congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the School. As one who has seen a little of the work that you are doing, I can without hesitation describe it as being one of the finest missionary efforts at present being performed in Canton. We sincerely hope that the Ming Sum School will continue to flourish and carry on its good work for those unfortunate children of God who have been deprived of their sight.

N. V. Halward,  
Holy Trinity College,  
Tung Sha Road,  
Canton, China.

The singing of the pupils of the Ming Sum School has always been soul-lifting, but one evening stands out above all others. The school was assembled to sing for guests. This group of girls and boys, perhaps one hundred of them, deprived of the blessing of sight, sang a number of songs. Through each song their faces as well as their hearts were full of joy to a loving heavenly Father. They were not singing meaningless words, but with the whole being, mind and soul, they were singing "Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty." Their joyful praise that quiet summer evening still echoes across the years and in the meantime has taught many lessons of inspiration and joy in things being done for other boys and girls. My heart is always thankful for Ming Sum's message in song.

Ruth Mulliken,  
Pui Ying Middle School,  
Hong Kong.

\* \* \*

Accept my hearty congratulations to you on this Fiftieth Anniversary of the founding of your school. Ming Sum impresses me especially as an institution founded in faith and by love, and one that throughout its fifty years has built upon its foundation in enduring patience and hope. It has been, and is, a great inspiration to know so many of the teachers and graduates. May the Holy spirit continue to dwell in you richly.

Edna Lowrey,  
Union Normal School,  
Macao.

\* \* \*

Ming Sum—what a refuge it has been to so many refugees this year, and what a place of quiet rest and blessing to us missionaries!

We mothers have been so grateful and thankful for the many times our youngsters have spent the night at Ming Sum. They have so few thrills but these house-parties have made up to them for the things they miss at home.

All of our children have learned to know the blind kiddies and teachers at Ming Sum. The blind teachers are so happy and dear with children that there is a real friendship with them.



This year has been one of great development in Ming Sum—a year of more normal progress than any that I can remember in my close contact of fourteen years.

Dorothy Jean Snyder, (Mrs. J. P.),  
Hackett Medical Center,  
Canton, China.



*Presbyterian Mission Children at Ming Sum 1939*

**Back row; left to right**

*Margie Lue Snyder, James Karcher, Joseph Karcher*

**Front row:**

*Dalice Snyder, Donald Stevensen, John Karcher*

\* \* \*

Greetings to Ming Sum School where so many have learned the Way of Light and such a number have contributed to the advancement of their communities and enriched the lives of all with whom they have come in contact.

One of your graduates has been of greater help to the children of Yeung Kong than is possible to express. Her wonderful ability and patience in teaching singing to hundreds of these little ones, also her sincerity in telling Bible stories, as well as her remarkable skill in many other ways, has spoken highly for your school and has had a wonderful influence for Christ and Christian Life.

Vella M. Wilcox,  
American Presbyterian Mission,  
Yeung Kong,  
South China.

\* \* \*

Any institution, which has the record for achieving and pioneering which the last fifty years have made for Ming Sum, can feel that it has made a permanent contribution toward advancing the human values which are so sorely needed in the world of men. Ming Sum has not only been a beacon light to those who are physically blind, it has opened the spiritual eyes of many to Christ.

I am proud to be included among the friends of this school. May the next fifty years not only see this record duplicated, but may they witness an ever growing group of friends who will actively cooperate with Ming Sum in her program of helping the blind find normal, useful places in society.

Lois Armentrout,  
Paak Hok Tung,  
Canton, China.

\* \* \*

How deep must be your feeling of pride and thankfulness on this Fiftieth Anniversary of the Ming Sum School! We rejoice with you and send you greetings.

While crossing the Pacific I looked out upon its vast surface and I asked, "Why all this waste?" Then I reflected that it was to give life to vegetation, drink to all creatures, health and happiness to millions of men. As I looked at the faces of the pupils in your school, those imprisoned in total darkness, again I asked "Why all this waste?" Then I realized that through one gift alone, in which those pupils excell, the art of song, there was no waste. For in Ming Sum truly you have a potential Heavenly Choir. May you go forward in your noble work expanding and increasing this great choir.

Mr. and Mrs. George M. Kelley,  
Todd Clinic and Hospital,  
Canton, China.

\* \* \*

Ming Sum is Christianity in action. It is an expression of Christ's love for men in creative effort. The lives which have been enriched and reconstructed there are a living memorial to the patience and vision of the founder, Dr. Mary Niles and all those who have followed in her steps.

"No mystic voices from the heavens  
above

Now satisfy the souls which Christ  
confess;

Their heavenly vision is in works of  
love,

A new age summons to new saintliness,  
Before th' uncloistered shrine of human  
needs

And all unconscious of the worth or  
price,

They lay their fragrant gifts of gracious deeds

Upon the altar of self-sacrifice."

Francis G. Peabody.  
Herbert and Jean M. Pommerenke,  
American Presbyterian Mission,  
Yeung Kong, Kwangtung, China.

\* \* \*

In 1924 we lived near the Ming Sum School for the Blind and our hearts were often moved on hearing the hymns sung by those whom the Lord had touched. Although physical blindness was their lot, yet the eyes of their understanding had been opened and today we find many of them faithfully carrying on their work among their own people.

It gives us great pleasure to congratulate Ming Sum as you pass your golden mile stone. Inspired and strengthened by the courage and faith of those who founded the work under great difficulties and hardships, today you have entered into their labors and are reaping where others have sown.

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Perdue,  
Assemblies of God Mission,  
South China.

\* \* \*

We all send you our heartiest wishes and congratulations for your Fiftieth Anniversary.

Sister Anna Muller,  
Blind Girls' School,  
Kunming, Yunnan.

(Under German representatives of the China Inland Mission. This school was started in 1922 by Miss Annie Yu, a graduate of Ming Sum School.)

\* \* \*

The members of the Reformed Presbyterian Mission all down thru the years have watched with more than usual interest the marvelous development of the Ming Sum School, having enjoyed close fellowship with the noble founder, Dr. Mary Niles, and also her worthy successors. It is with much gratitude to God that we greet you on this 50th anniversary. We rejoice that tho you have been called upon to weather many serious crises thru the years, the Lord's grace has been manifested in His miracle working power. Truly the work of Christian Missions in China has been greatly enhanced

by your practical demonstration of Christ's Love in radiating the wondrous Light of the Gospel. May Ming Sum ever remain a monument to the Love shed abroad at Calvary and be ever increasingly used for His glory!

Jennie Dean.

\* \* \*

We of the Sum Kwong Blind Girls' School, Pokfulam, Hong Kong wish to greet our twin sister, Ming Sum School, upon their Fiftieth Anniversary. May the Lord bless this school in the coming fifty years as He has blessed it in the past so that it may be a help to many Chinese blind and seeing—to the blind that they may learn to see inwardly—to the seeing—that it may be a monument of God's love.

We are living in days when the foundations of civilization are rocking but we know that the love of God will endure forever.

I said in the beginning that the Sum Kwong Blind Girls' Home is a twin sister of the Ming Sum School because from the start their history has been intertwined. God's love worked in the heart of two women—Miss L. Cooper in Germany and Dr. Mary Niles in Canton. The burden was put on both hearts so heavily that even though one was ill and the other busily engaged in hospital work, they found no rest until they discovered a way to help the blind of China.



*Sister Martha Postler of St. John's Ambulance  
who opened the Sum Kwong School in  
Hong Kong in 1897 under the  
Hildesheim Mission*



A little group of women in Hildesheim, Germany met each week to sew or knit to earn funds to aid those without sight in China. When the time came to use the money thus earned, they found that God had already moved the heart of the American lady in Canton to start a school for blind girls. Consequently, among the first pupils of Ming Sum school were four little girls, sent from Hong Kong, and supported by these German friends in Hildesheim until 1897 when they opened a school of their own.

In 1919 when circumstances forced the Hildesheim in Hong Kong to close Ming Sum again opened its doors to their pupils.



*Lin Shau, the first blind teacher of Ming Sum.*

The first blind teacher of the Ming Sum School, Ng Taai Koo or Lin Shau, was educated in the Berlin Foundling House Hong Kong, by the Rev. Gottschalk, a German Missionary. It was he who first introduced the Hildesheim friends to Ming Sum and it was he with whom Dr. Niles worked out the first Cantonese Braille code. This code was later revised by Miss Von Seelhorst of the Hildesheim Mission and Dr. Niles. This revision was made in order to get the Bible and other literature printed in Cantonese by the British and Foreign Bible Society in London.

Since our two schools have been so intimately bound together from the beginning no war nor other calamities can separate us.

Even though we cannot see our twin sister personally at this time, we are glad that we can be with her in spirit.

Sophie Moritz,  
Industrial Home for Blind Girls  
Eben Ezer House,  
Pokfulam,  
Hong Kong.



*Miss A. Berg of the Hildesheim Mission to the Blind, at Moyan, South China with six of the smallest children.*

Greetings of appreciation for Ming Sum and hope for further development of the school have come from these Chinese friends, written in Chinese:—Dr. To Shang Loh, Mr. Tsz Chan, Mrs. Sz Po Lei Wong and Mrs. Suet Fong Taam Lowe, Mrs. Wong and Mrs. Lowe are members of Ming Sum Board of Directors.

Dr. Loh was a student of Dr. Niles and came to Ming Sum during refugee days, partly to help refugees in any place and especially to Ming Sum in loving honor to her teacher Dr. Niles. Mr. Chan is an earnest Christian gentleman who has greatly helped and influenced many in Canton. He also was at Ming Sum during refugee days. All of these Chinese friends express the hope that more and more of the seeing public will help to use the services of blind young people after Ming Sum educates them.

\* \* \*

On this Fiftieth Anniversary of your school you are to be congratulated on having made a very special and significant contribution to the Christian as well as the social needs of Canton.

Ming Sum School for the Blind has for these past fifty years not only brought light and love into the lives of many who would otherwise have spent their days in a dark,

sad world; but it has also been one of the most effective apologetics for Christianity, being a practical demonstration of what is meant by Christian love. It was a revelation to some Chinese friends who had a graduate from Ming Sum School live in their midst for a little while. "Why", they said, "she can read and write, sing and play the organ, knit intricate patterns, give massage treatments and teach us the Bible. We have our sight and can't do half these things. We used to pity her but we don't any longer."

This school is to be congratulated on the fine staff of Christian teachers who have made the work of the school and the well-being of the students their life work. May the school continue its splendid work and have an ever increasing influence thru these next decades.

Dorothy M. Fisher (Mrs. A. J.),  
American Presbyterian Mission,  
Shatin,  
Hong Kong,

\* \* \*

"Ming Sum" is a true expression of the Christian heart in its desire to give a fair opportunity to all. Its fifty years of service have been fruitful in many ways, especially in developing happy Christian lives among its students and in enlisting the interest of Christians and non-Christians in its useful service in a needy field. Yet there are still many needs in connection with

its work, especially along the line of affording opportunities for remunerative service for its graduates and for those sent to it by the civil authorities. In congratulating it on its achievements of fifty years, we look forward to fuller service in the years to come.

Herbert F. Thomson,  
American Presbyterian Mission,  
Paak Hok Tung,  
Canton, China,

\* \* \*

Watch the tiniest Ming Sum students, running and laughing, acting out their little songs and singing them with such evident enjoyment, or working on their Braille slates so that later they may enjoy the blessed privilege of reading—for work and play are well balanced at Ming Sum. This picture tells more than words what fifty years of love have brought to those who cannot see. No greater tribute can be paid to any organization than the knowledge that it is equipping handicapped lives for a place in the world of intelligent human beings. Congratulations to Ming Sum at the close of fifty fruitful years and may she continue to be a blessing to Chinese girls and boys!

Grace M. Rupert,  
Hackett Medical Center,  
Canton, China.

The Board of Directors, Staff and Students of Ming Sum School wish to thank all their friends for the countless ways in which they have helped in the growth and development of the school. Every manifestation of interest is appreciated as it helps the Public to realize more and more that in Ming Sum there are not "poor little blind girls and boys", who are objects of charity, but young people learning to overcome their handicap so they may become useful citizens of China.



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